

SCHOOL CLIMATE STRIKES THIS WEEK

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TENS OF THOUSANDS JOIN UNIVERSITY STRIKES

Solid action sees big picket lines, rallies and new union members >>Pages 19&20



# Socialist Worker

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## JOHNSON'S FAKE NHS CLAIMS

# SICK LIAR



## BACK CORBYN ● VOTE LABOUR

### ELECTION

## Number of NHS beds at all-time low

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

**THE NUMBER** of hospital beds in England has fallen to the lowest level since records began—and a decade of Tory cuts is to blame.

Some 17,320 beds have been axed since the Tory/Lib Dem government came to office in 2010.

This means the NHS only has 127,225 beds, just as pressure is set to rise this winter.

There were no available beds on children's wards in the North West of England last weekend.

The damning figures came after Boris Johnson was caught lying about a manifesto promise to train "50,000 more nurses" (see page 4).

His real ambition is to further open up the NHS to Donald

### Beds crisis means patients on trolleys

Trump and US bosses in trade deals.

Corporations already have access to large parts of the NHS—and with devastating effects.

Scottish National Party health secretary Jeane Freeman was this week forced to apologise to the parents of two children who died on a ward with water contamination at Queen Elizabeth hospital.

Glasgow's badly designed "superhospital" was built using a version of the PFI privatisation scam.

The NHS needs an urgent cash boost—and to kick out all of the privatisers.

That means defeating Johnson.



## THE THINGS THEY SAY

**'They're unanimous in their hate for me, and I welcome their hatred'**

Jeremy Corbyn quoting US president Franklin D Roosevelt

**'No one gives a toss about social media cut and thrust'**

Dominic Raab defends the rebranding of the Tory press office's Twitter account as Fact Check UK

**'Rules him out as someone suitable to be Prime Minister'**

Sir Richard Dearlove, ex MI6 boss, made his now annual pronouncement that Jeremy Corbyn was working in the interests of Britain's enemies

**'I think he should be given a break because, after all, nothing's been proved, has it? There is no proof'**

John Challis, best known for playing Boycie in the BBC comedy series Only Fools And Horses, defends Prince Andrew.

**'Vicks inhaler that unblocks the nostrils of the Welsh dragon'**

Boris Johnson explains what the Tories can do for Wales



# Andrew's lies on abuse scandal start to unravel

PRINCE ANDREW secretly met Ghislaine Maxwell inside Buckingham Palace on 6 June. It was two weeks after her abuser friend Jeffrey Epstein was placed under a new investigation by US cops.

Last March, Virginia Roberts launched an appeal over a judge's refusal to unseal documents relating to the 2017 defamation settlement with Maxwell.

She claims to have had sex with Andrew "three times, including one orgy".

The first encounter took place in Maxwell's London home when Roberts was 17. Roberts has accused Maxwell of recruiting her to work as Epstein's masseuse aged 15.

In 2015 court testimony, she wrote, "Epstein, Andy, approximately eight other young girls and I had sex together."

She said the other girls seemed to be under 18 and "didn't really speak English". This seemed to amuse Epstein who said, "They are the 'easiest' girls to get along with."

When news broke of that case, Andrew was holidaying in a ski chalet, which he'd bought for £13 million.

He gets a £20,000 Naval pension, and £259,000-a-year grant from his mum in return for putting his name on charity letterheads.

How could he afford a £13 million ski chalet, not to mention a £200,000 Bentley, a Windsor mansion, the



JOKE OF York

non-stop foreign golf trips and private yacht holidays? In 2008 he sold his marital home, Sunninghill Park, for £3 million more than the asking price to Timur Kulibayev, a son-in-law of the then president of Kazakhstan.

It fell into disrepair and was demolished in 2016, the same year that leaked emails showed the duke had attempted to arrange for Coutts, the Queen's bank, to take Kulibayev on as a client.

He denied taking £3.85 million commission for setting up a deal with Kazakh oligarch Kenges Rakishev in 2011.

Last week Andrew stepped away from all his royal ~~seems~~ duties.

Sadly the Queen will no longer be able to write off the estimated £1 million a year cost of running the Duke's office as a business expense as he no longer has an official royal role.

PRINCE ANDREW stayed at the lavish Caribbean estate of another billionaire accused of rape and sexual assault.

In 2000 the duke visited the mansion of Peter Nygard just as he settled three cases of sexual harassment out of court.

The Mayan-themed house includes a 50-foot temple and a giant stone cobra that hissed steam. There were fake volcanos, a casino and a disco.

Last year the mansion was seized by the Supreme Court of the Bahamas as part of a legal battle surrounding Nygard's efforts to dredge the sea floor around the estate.

Earlier this month he was sentenced to 90 days in prison and fined £100,000 after breaching a court order prohibiting the disclosure of stolen emails. Nygard is currently in Canada saying he is too ill to travel to serve his sentence.

Peter Nygard

## 53 student blocks have risky cladding

THOUSANDS of students are still living in accommodation with the same flammable cladding as Grenfell Tower.

A total of 62 university and college blocks were identified as being coated in the material that helped spread the 2017 inferno.

But only nine have had it stripped off, leaving 53 where it is still in place.

According to a report a ten-storey, 75-bedroom tower in Portsmouth has failed a safety test, although officials say there are "no immediate concerns".

The revelation comes after 100 people were evacuated amid a fire recently at a student block of flats

Cladding in Portsmouth

in Bolton.

And a blaze which destroyed a block of cladding-covered flats in Brighton in

30 minutes is being probed.

## Cover-up of undercover cops was covered-up

A POLICE Scotland inquiry into an undercover unit may have covered up a cover-up.

The Metropolitan Police were asked to investigate how the Scottish force had investigated itself.

Senior officers had ordered piles of secret and sensitive documents to be torched in an incinerator.

This was days after the Special Operations Unit for undercover operations had been exposed as chaotic. Destroyed documents included bank statements, passports and credit card bills linked to undercover officers' secret lives.

The Police Scotland review, Operation

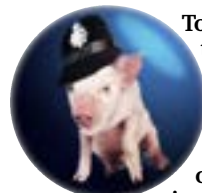
Towering, concluded there was no cover-up.

The Met's review of that review said, "The timely manner of the incineration, its closeness in

time to a professional standards investigation and the lack of any audit or record of destruction, throws sufficient doubt that this can be the only conclusion."

One cop said, "It looks like a cover-up, it smells like a cover-up and, if even the Met cannot deny it was a cover-up, then you can be assured it was a cover-up."

The Met says it found no evidence of criminal activity but admits more than £10,000 cannot be accounted for.



## HILLSBOROUGH

### Duckenfield trial reaches conclusion

THE JURY was sent out to consider its verdicts in the trial of David Duckenfield on Monday of this week.

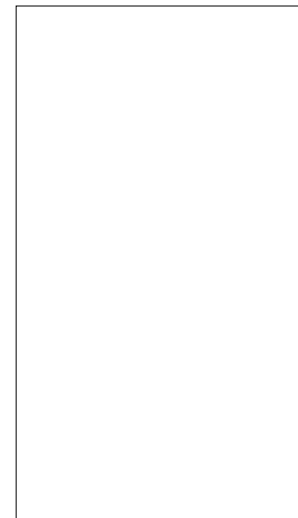
Duckenfield was South Yorkshire Police match commander during the Hillsborough football disaster in Sheffield in April 1989.

Some 96 Liverpool fans died after a crush in pens 3 and 4 at the Leppings Lane end of the ground.

Duckenfield denies 95 counts of gross negligence manslaughter in relation to the deaths. He can't be tried over the 96th death, of Tony Bland, as he died over a year and a day after his injuries were sustained.

Judge Sir Peter Openshaw said jurors should consider five questions.

The first is whether



David Duckenfield

Duckenfield owed a duty of care to fans. The second is whether he was in breach of that duty.

The third is whether it was reasonably foreseeable that Duckenfield's breach, or breaches, would cause a serious and obvious risk of death.

The fourth is whether a breach or breaches of a duty of care caused or substantially contributed to the deaths. The jury was told it did not have to prove that any breach by Duckenfield was the only or main cause.

And the fifth is whether any breach or breaches amount to gross negligence.

Openshaw summed up the case at Preston Crown Court last week. He said jurors must be "dispassionate" in their deliberations.

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# Cruel Tory policies mean more homeless people die

by GABBY THORPE

**WHILE BORIS Johnson speaks of a “one nation” Britain, at least five homeless people have died in the last few weeks.**

Housing charity Museum of Homelessness (Moh) said that cold weather is just one factor in a problem caused by “a decade of policies designed to punish the poorest in our society”.

One man died after sleeping rough outside the Hilton hotel in Nottingham. On the same day a homeless man is thought to have frozen to death in Yorkshire.

In Glasgow, a man was found dead in a car park. And in Manchester a homeless man died in hospital after being found by a pub landlord.

A man in his fifties was found dead in a park in London at the beginning of November.

In August, figures showed that on average a homeless person dies every 19 hours in Britain.

And an official report revealed that at least 726 homeless people died in 2018. It's a 22 percent rise from 2017.

## Austerity

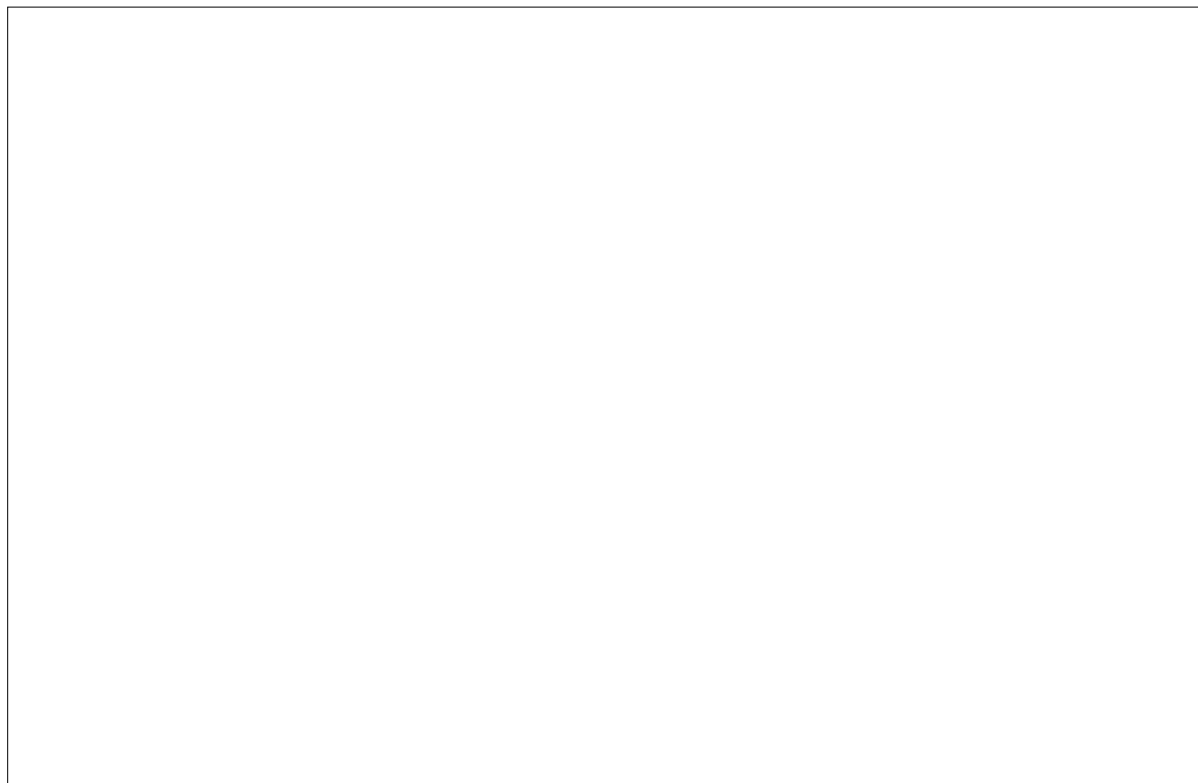
Jess Turtle, co-founder of Moh said, “We now find ourselves in a perfect storm caused by austerity, welfare reform, the hostile environment, failure to build council housing and pressure on health services.

“It is this toxic combination that is forcing so many into destitution, homelessness and ultimately causing premature deaths.”

Homelessness is preventable.

But a number of obstacles mean that people don't have access to the services needed to keep them off the streets.

There have been many calls for the government to take action. But instead, local councils are making



SLEEPING OUT in London (above) and an anti-homeless sign in south east London (below)

the problem worse. A report by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism showed that many councils encourage homeless people to rent privately.

But landlords are increasingly refusing to rent to people receiving benefits.

And many night shelters require the service users to have benefits in order to stay there.

Homeless people then can't move on to permanent housing.

Other shelters only take referrals from the council.

These conditions have led to many migrants setting up camps—only to have them cleared by police. The Tories have promised to

expand current pilot schemes to end rough sleeping. But the provisions already in place obviously aren't working.

Labour has pledged to “end rough sleeping within five years”.

The party's plans include the provision of 8,000 additional homes for those with a history of sleeping on the streets.

Whoever wins the election next month, there needs to be a movement to demand safe and affordable housing for everyone.



## What's your story?

Email with your ideas  
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

## ENVIRONMENT

### All out for latest global climate strike

SCHOOL STUDENTS across the world were making posters, preparing slogans and dropping banners to organise for their next day of climate action.

Hundreds of thousands of students planned mass walkouts as part of a global climate strike this Friday.

Originating with Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future movement, it will be the fourth globally coordinated day.

Thunberg is currently sailing to Spain to be in Madrid for climate talks starting next week (see pages 10&11).

## Coincide

The strike is timed to coincide with Black Friday—a day when shops push sales.

Climate strikers are using it as an opportunity to link the message from big business to the climate catastrophe.

Climate Strike Canada declared, “Our future is not for sale,” and, “Don't buy into it.”

“Remember the choices you make in your everyday life can have an impact but we still have to hold corporations and government accountable to see larger and more impactful change,” it said.

In many places across Britain, climate leaders and striking university workers were planning to hold joint rallies.

Dozens of school strikers have registered their strikes with coordinators UK Schools Climate Network.

**March for planet, pay and pensions**, Friday 29 November, 11am, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY. Called by UCU London region and CWU London region

## Socialist Worker Appeal to raise £125,000

Socialist Worker is the voice of people fighting for a better world. It dispels the racist scapegoating and anti-working class rhetoric of the mainstream press.

We publish stories of the strikes, protests and pickets that can beat back the bosses and bigots. We are asking everyone who enjoys Socialist Worker to donate as much as they can and help fund the resistance.

### I SUPPORT THE APPEAL BECAUSE...

*While the mainstream media talks about climate change in language that minimises the brutal and harsh realities of the crisis, Socialist Worker has highlighted the devastating effects of climate breakdown and supported movements*

*fighting for change. I support the appeal because Socialist Worker has given a voice to young people, encouraging everyone to strike for the climate.*

**Izzy Smitheman —**  
Bristol School Striker



£125,000

£100,000

**Total so far**  
**£90,334**

£75,000

£50,000

£25,000

**To donate go to [socialistworker.co.uk/appeal](https://socialistworker.co.uk/appeal)**

Call 020 7840 5607 or send a cheque, payable to 'SW Appeal' to PO Box 74955, London E16 9EJ

## JOIN THE SCHOOL CLIMATE STRIKE



**Fri 29 November**

For details go to  
[ukscn.org/events](https://ukscn.org/events)





# Johnson's manifesto full of lies, falsehoods and fakery

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEL-EVANS

**BORIS JOHNSON** presented himself as a champion of ordinary people against the politicians at his manifesto launch last week.

After a decade of Tory government, Johnson claimed an inclusive Tory vision was being “held back by a broken parliament”.

In reality, the manifesto promised a few crumbs that will not undo the Tories’ damage to the NHS, the welfare state, and working class living standards.

Johnson’s main message was straightforward—the Tories would “get Brexit done”. He honed in on Jeremy Corbyn’s weakest point in the general election—Labour’s Brexit policy.

Corbyn has promised to negotiate a new deal, then hold a referendum with the Labour deal and Remain on the ballot paper.

But he has remained neutral over the two options.

Beyond the populist message of the people versus the politicians, the Tory manifesto tried to avoid detail as much as possible.

For every £1 the Tories promise to spend, Labour promises £28.

This was apparent in the Tories’ pledges of 50,000 extra nurses and to bring back the bursaries for those studying nursing at university.

This grant for nursing and healthcare university students was slashed by former Tory prime minister David Cameron.

The promise of “50,000 more nurses” turned out to include 18,500 current nurses who the government hopes to persuade to remain in the



Toff in workers’ clothing

## BACK STORY

**Labour and the Tories released their manifestoes last week**

● Labour’s manifesto was pitched as a challenge “the tax dodgers, the bad bosses, the big polluters and the dodgy landlords” (see page 17)

● Johnson presented the Tories’ manifesto as a vision for “the people” against parliament

● But Tory election pledges are full of cuts dressed up as giveaways—and attacks on working class people and the right to strike

workforce. This means it won’t even fill all of the 43,000 vacant nursing posts in England.

Similarly, the NEU education union said the manifesto’s plans would mean £340 million more cuts to school budgets in 2023-24.

For all the pretence of bringing people together, the Tories slipped in another attack on workers’ rights to strike.

They want new rules to force rail unions to guarantee a minimum service during industrial action.

## Racist

In a sign of how the Tories rely on racist scapegoating, they would double the amount of money for a “hit squad” to tackle “health tourism”.

This allows them to undermine the principle of free healthcare and to paint migrants as a drain on resources.

The manifesto confirmed that migrants would be forced to pay a surcharge to use the NHS—on top of taxes—and be excluded from benefits for five years.

As Johnson spoke inside, socialists, anti-racists, health campaigners, climate activists and others joined an angry protest outside.

Corbyn needs to go after Johnson more, hold mass rallies open to all, and expose the fakery of Tory anti-establishment rhetoric.

## Labour



CAMPAIGNING FOR Labour in Cities of London and Westminster

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

# Hope and worry among activists on the Labour Party’s campaign

**LABOUR PARTY** activists have held mass canvassing sessions in marginal seats across Britain as part of their campaign to win the general election.

Well over 100 people turned out to canvas in central London on Thursday of last week.

One canvasser, Georgia, told *Socialist Worker*, “We won’t get this opportunity again. That’s why I’m knocking on doors—to tell people that this election is our chance to use our voices and be heard.”

“I never thought my vote would do anything. But when Corbyn won the Labour leadership, I registered to vote.”

“I think he gives people confidence that change is coming. And because of that we have a chance of winning.”

Yet canvassers also report that right wing smears against Labour have had an effect on how some people view Jeremy Corbyn.

And activists are worried that the Tories are still ahead in many polls. It is a real fact that there are many people whose lives have



On the anti-Tory protest in Carmarthen

been made worse by a decade of Tory rule, yet who don’t see Labour as an alternative.

In Sheffield, community care worker Christine says things have “become a hell of a lot worse” because of austerity. “Care work didn’t used to be a bad place to work in,” she told *Socialist Worker*.

But she said she’s considering voting for racist Nigel Farage’s Brexit Party, and had voted to Leave the European Union to “put money where it’s needed and to get our industry back up and running”.

Yet there is also

widespread support for Labour in Sheffield too.

Hundreds of people turned out to see Corbyn outside BBC’s Question Time at Sheffield Students’ Union on Friday of last week—an event that turned into an impromptu rally.

An email from Labour left group Momentum said winning the battle meant canvassing “in our thousands”.

Yet it took more than canvassing to achieve that in 2017—and it will take more than that this time to cut through the right wing smears.

Labour’s campaign in 2017 defied the right largely thanks to the mass protest-style rallies that gave it a radical, insurgent feel. There have been very few of those this time.

Yet the rally in Sheffield, and a broad-based anti-Tory protest in Carmarthen, west Wales, shows there’s potential.

Labour’s campaign should become a much broader movement against the Tories and austerity.

# Brexit Party wants tax cuts for rich, and racism

**NIGEL** Farage unveiled the Brexit Party’s “contract with the people” last week. The document is effectively the party’s general election manifesto.

The party is standing in 275 seats. It stood down in the 317 seats the Tories won in 2017.

Farage called for a cap on permanent immigration to 50,000 a year. In a racist dogwhistle, he said he wanted to “return to 60 years of post-war normality that led to us having the best levels of integration in any country in Europe, the best race relations in Europe”.

Farage added that Britain took “a different direction” in the late 1990s. “We are now paying quite a big price for that,” he claimed.

The manifesto pledged to “crack down on illegal immigration” and “reduce annual immigration and address wage stagnation and the skills gap by introducing a fair points system that is blind to ethnic origin.”

Along with thinly-veiled claims that migration leads to conflict, social instability and lower

wages, the party focused on delivering a “clean break” Brexit.

But the “contract” included a few other things too. Some were an attempt to ditch Farage’s reputation as someone who hates the NHS and other services, and doesn’t care about the planet.

So it says, “The NHS must remain a publicly-owned, comprehensive service that is free at the point of use.”

“There should be no privatisation of the NHS—where existing private initiatives have failed to deliver we will return them to public ownership.”

It also claimed to want to make it easier for councils to

borrow from central government “to build council houses”.

Yet the Brexit Party is led by a ragtag of ex-Tories, former bankers and bosses.

No one should trust Farage and his mates. The real agenda is to whip up racism and hand more money to those at the top.

So the Brexit Party plans to abolish inheritance tax, helping out the richest. And it pledges to bring in a zero rate corporation tax for the first £10,000 of firms’ pre-tax profits. It also wants to “cut red tape” and “increase competition”.

Polls over the weekend showed the party trailing with 3 percent.



Stand Up To Racism joined protest against Johnson

PICTURE: DAVID SMITH

letterboxes and bank robbers. Islamophobic incidents went up by 375 percent in the week after he made these statements.

“The government’s Windrush scandal led to misery for thousands of black

Britons who arrived decades ago.

“People were deported, denied NHS care, and lost their jobs as part of a deliberate hostile environment.”

Go to Stop Johnson & his racist friends—Day Of Action on Facebook

**Socialist Worker**  
WHAT WE THINK

# ANTISEMITISM FUELLED BY THE RIGHT—NOT LABOUR

**A**NTISEMITISM is “sanctioned from the top”—but not, as the Chief Rabbi wrote this week, from the top of the Labour Party.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis wrote in the *Times* newspaper this week that Jewish people are worried for their future if Labour wins the general election.

There are good reasons for Jewish people to fear a growth in antisemitism. It has risen along with hatred of Muslims and migrants.

Scapegoating of Muslims and migrants—promoted by every major party and mainstream national newspaper—has fuelled the growth of racists, Nazis and the far right.

Inevitably, the mainstream endorsement of these forms of racism allowed antisemitism to fester as well.

Nazi groups that feed off Islamophobia and hatred of migrants tie this into the antisemitism that is central to their ideology. For modern fascist groups this takes the form of the “great replacement theory”.

This is the lie that white people in European countries are being

“replaced” by Muslim migrants—and that this is all orchestrated by Jewish people.

It’s had horrifying consequences for Muslims and Jews.

Robert Bowers, who committed a mass shooting at a synagogue in the US last year, was motivated by this ideology. The same ideology inspired another mass shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand, earlier this year—this time at a mosque.

And it helped the Victor Orban’s antisemitic Fidesz party get elected to government in Hungary last year.

These are the people who the Tories are happy to sit alongside, and who Boris Johnson

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congratulated as “friends” in a “close partnership”. Yet when the rise of antisemitism is discussed in Britain, more often than not the finger of blame is pointed at Jeremy Corbyn’s Labour Party.

In his *Times* article, Ephraim wrote that “a new poison” has “taken root in the Labour Party” under Jeremy Corbyn.

Claims that antisemitism has risen in Labour—and in Britain—since Corbyn was elected Labour leader in 2015 underpin all the accusations made against him.

They focus on Corbyn’s “past associations”—by which they mean his support for the Palestinian struggle against oppression by Israel.

Muslims—not just the left—are treated as suspect and open to antisemitism due to their opposition to Israel.

The right’s answer is either to get rid of Corbyn or to support the racist Johnson, the antisemites’ friend.

If Johnson’s Tories win the general election, racism in Britain will continue to get worse, including for Jewish people.

Those who prefer Johnson to Corbyn care very little about challenging racism.

support Jeremy Corbyn. Most importantly, it was good to see university workers take to the picket lines this week.

The UCU union members are right to fight now, election time or not.

For Labour Party members door-knocking is important, but the mood in society matters most.

When ordinary people fight back together, right wing ideas can get less of a hearing.

During the 2017 election, marches against cuts to school

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# ELECTRIFY THE ELECTION

**T**HIS WEEK we saw examples of how Labour’s election campaign could be electrified.

As Johnson launched his manifesto in Telford on Sunday, protesters were waiting for him outside. On the same day in Carmarthen, Labour members, other socialists, anti-racists and anti-austerity campaigners held a protest in the West Wales town against the local Tory MP.

And in Sheffield last Friday, hundreds of people gathered outside BBC Question Time to

support Jeremy Corbyn. Most importantly, it was good to see university workers take to the picket lines this week.

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During the 2017 election, marches against cuts to school

# ANTI-TORY AMMUNITION

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Pamphlet £2.50



BADGE 80p or 15 for £7



## ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



## Ukraine shows splits in the US ruling class

**THERE'S A large element of accident in how Ukraine has come to dominate the impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump.**

His preoccupation was to get Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky to dig up dirt on the business activities of the Hunter Biden. He is the son of Joe Biden, former Democratic vice president and a contender to stand against Trump in 2020.

Anywhere else could have served just as well for these purposes. But Ukraine illustrates how the crisis of the neoliberal political order is feeding into and intensifying geopolitical rivalries among the great powers.

It's helpful to compare Ukraine's relationship to Russia with Scotland's with England.

Ukraine developed its own national identity but was part of the Russian state for more than three centuries, about the same length as Scotland's union with England. Ukrainian independence tore a huge hole in Russia's power, just as Scottish independence would in Britain's.

After declaring independence in 1991, Ukraine became a space in which rivalries between Russia and the US and the European Union have been fought out. Indeed, an article in the Foreign Affairs journals calls it "a country that has wrecked attempt after attempt at establishing a durable order" in Europe and Asia.

The most recent example is the crisis in 2014. When a strongly pro-Western government took office in Ukraine, Russia annexed the strategically important Crimean Peninsula. And parts of southeastern Ukraine fell under the control of breakaway statelets propped up by Russia.

The result has been an escalation in tensions between Russia and the West, with a succession of sanctions packages.

Meanwhile Russian president Vladimir Putin has become a power broker in the Middle East by exploiting the partial retreat of the US there. Add to that the election of a US president who admires Putin, and you have a heady draught of Cold War paranoia on both sides.

Putin, fearful of a US-backed "colour revolution" in Russia, has been meddling in Western elections. European and American liberals in turn use him as an alibi for their own failures, blaming Trump's victory, the Brexit referendum, and other upsets on Russian manipulation.

### Dependence

Ukraine first entered the story because Trump and his allies claim that it was Ukrainian, not Russian interests that intervened in the 2016 elections. Now he has been exposed as apparently exploiting Ukraine's dependence on US military aid to force Zelensky to help him smear Biden father and son.

It's interesting that it should be a Ukrainian rather than a Russian connection on which the Democrats think they have got Trump.

This confirms my impression that all the efforts to prove that he is beholden to the Kremlin and its spooks and oligarchs have been unsuccessful. It seems that Trump defers to Putin, not because he's being bribed or blackmailed, but because he genuinely admires him.

Nevertheless, from the perspective of the US national security establishment, this is crime enough. For them, Ukraine is the front line against Russia. The hearings revealed that the ultra-belligerent national security adviser John Bolton tried to block the efforts of Trump and his tools, like Rudy Giuliani, to make US aid to Ukraine conditional on Zelensky investigating the Bidens. This may help explain why Bolton was sacked in September.

One of Bolton's ex-colleagues, Fiona Hill, who was senior director for European and Russian affairs at the National Security Council till July, gave widely-praised testimony last week dismissing the idea of Ukrainian meddling in 2016 as Russian disinformation.

The hearings have thus exposed the extent of opposition to Trump within the US national security establishment. But this isn't because he's a racist, sexist bully who is building the far right internationally.

It's because they believe he is proving to be a poor servant of US imperialism in its power struggles with its rivals. Let's bear this in mind before we cheer the impeachers too loudly.



A PROTEST against Donald Trump's state visit to Britain in June

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

# People get ready to protest against Trump's London trip

by GABBY THORPE

**DONALD TRUMP is set to fly to London next week to attend a two-day summit of the Nato warmongers' alliance.**

Nato is overseen by Trump—a war hungry, racist climate denier.

He has recently been at the forefront of ramping up aggression towards Iran, which is the main regional rival of US ally Saudi Arabia.

And last month Trump backed a Turkish invasion of Syria, claiming the plan was "key to neutralising the threat stemming from Kurdish terrorists".

Alongside Trump's promotion of war abroad, his racism has seen massive attacks on migrants at home.

### Deferred

This month Trump applied to the US Supreme Court to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programme (DACA).

DACA means that children of undocumented migrants can avoid deportation and receive work permits.

Since its introduction in 2012, the programme has prevented the deportation of up to 700,000 migrants.

If the Supreme Court backs Trump in a ruling expected next year, those migrants could face being deported.

The move is just the latest

in a long line of anti-migrant policies.

Trump has repeatedly referred to Mexicans as "rapists" and "criminals" and is still trying to build a wall along the US-Mexico border.

His rhetoric helped to inspire the horrific mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, which led to the deaths of 22 people.

And with the 2020 presidential elections looming, he will continue to ramp up the racist rhetoric to pay to his right wing base.

Trump is also an adamant

climate change denier. He has referred to climate change as a "hoax" and has refused to take part in Cop25 climate talks starting in Madrid next week (see pages 10&11).

He has signed executive orders to fast-track approval of fossil fuel projects.

### Leaked

And documents leaked in March showed that Trump was planning to sell of large sections of Florida's coastline to oil drilling companies.

Trump has said that it is not "in America's economic interests to stop climate change"—and his administration is right behind him.

At the Arctic Council gathering in May, US secretary of state Mike Pompeo said that melting Arctic ice could present "new opportunities for trade".

And Trump is friends with the racist Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro, who is responsible for massive attacks on the Amazon rainforest.

Protests are planned across Britain when Trump arrives, including a national demonstration in London on Tuesday of next week.

It is the perfect opportunity to confront him and his racist friends, Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage.

Donald Trump

# NO TO TRUMP NO TO NATO

## NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER, 4PM TRAFALGAR SQ, LONDON

[bit.ly/No2TrumpNo2Nato](https://bit.ly/No2TrumpNo2Nato)



**Got a story?**

Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)



# 'Education is election issue,' say strikers

Sixth form college workers held their biggest strike so far in a fight for pay and funding, writes **Sadie Robinson**

**STRIKES HIT** some 34 sixth form colleges on Wednesday of last week as NEU union members walked out.

The action was the third walkout in the union's campaign over pay and funding—and the biggest so far.

Teachers and other staff struck at colleges across England including in London, Brighton, South Yorkshire, Leeds, Hereford and the Midlands.

There were 30 on the picket line at Bilborough College in Nottingham, where Labour MP Alex Norris joined strikers.

Strikers say savage cuts have left students without enough support and resources.

Mike from City and Islington Sixth Form College in north London said, "Funding cuts mean we can't do the things we used to do."

"I'm a Geography teacher, and it's a compulsory part of the course for students to go on trips. Previously these were heavily subsidised. But now students are having to pay more of the costs—and it can be up to £250."

## Clear

Duncan Blackie, an NEU rep at Longley Park Sixth Form College in Sheffield, said workers have a "clear message" for the government. "Their anger is growing," he said.

Along with picketing, strikers have also leafleted in town and city centres.

Many are keen to make education cuts an election issue.

Jean Evanson is the NEU's post-16 national executive member, and works at Shrewsbury College Group. She said, "The government must fund post-16 education properly, reversing nine and a half years of ideologically-enforced austerity."

"We must also have a decent rate of pay and a manageable workload."

Strikers were hopeful that, if Labour is elected on 12 December, the attacks on education could start to be reversed.

But many stressed the need

## BACK STORY

Workers at sixth form colleges in England are fighting to improve pay and funding

- NEU union members held their biggest day of industrial action last week as 34 colleges walked out

- It included nine more colleges than last time

- Workers want to make education an election issue

- The union needs to keep up the fight whatever the result of the election on 12 December

to keep fighting. "We can't take anything for granted," said north London striker Marc.

"We will have to look at what happens after 12 December, but I'm not saying we should go easy on a Labour government."

The strike is the biggest walkout yet in the campaign as workers at nine more colleges joined for the first time. Their branches met the Tories' 50 percent turnout threshold in reballots and joined the walkouts this week.

NEU joint general secretary Kevin Courtney spoke to strikers on the north London picket line and celebrated the results. "The fact that we have smashed the thresholds proves we can do it—and we will do it again," he said.

He said if Labour is elected on 12 December then "we would not stop the strikes but we might suspend them".

"We would want to meet Angela Rayner and ask when the money will be coming for sixth forms," he said. "We have to work through our tactics."

"But whatever the outcome of the election, union strength is going to matter."

The union should name more dates to keep the pressure on the government—whoever is running it—and to maintain the momentum of the struggle.



SIXTH FORM strikers outside City and Islington College in north London

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

## ROYAL MAIL

# Postal workers challenge bosses' court order that blocked strikes

THE CWU postal workers' union was set on Thursday to challenge a court order that blocked national strikes in Royal Mail.

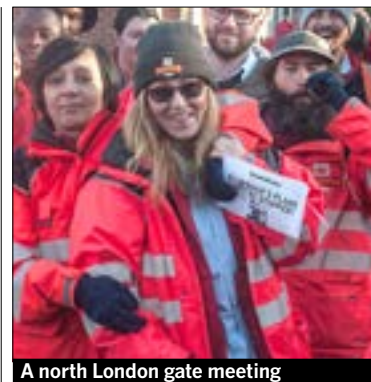
Royal Mail bosses used a High Court order to rule a national strike ballot of postal workers unlawful. It led the CWU to back down from calling action in defence of workers' jobs, terms and conditions.

Thousands of postal workers gathered outside their workplaces last Friday to tell bosses they won't give up the fight.

Speaking to a meeting at the North London Delivery Centre, CWU rep Mark Dolan said, "We aren't going away. What we've done today sends a massive signal back that this dispute is a long way from being resolved."

Some 81,000 postal workers voted to strike to defend their jobs and working conditions—a vote of 97 percent on a 76 percent turnout.

Yet High Court judge Jonathan Swift, formerly one of the government's chief law officers, sided with bosses to block action. He said the vote was unlawful



A north London gate meeting

because the union's high profile campaign to win the strike vote had created "a de facto workplace ballot".

Swift also said the coming general election was a factor in his decision.

One postal worker in the north London centre told Socialist Worker that "everyone at work was saying it was a joke" when the ruling was made.

"You take a vote so you can stand up for yourselves and then they tell you that you can't," she said. CWU says it could ballot

members again if the appeal fails. Royal Mail chief executive Rico Back is facing pressure from Royal Mail's shareholders to push ahead with his attacks.

He has a plan to break up Royal Mail into a parcels company run for profit, and a separate letters company that will be run down.

That would mean tens of thousands of job losses and worse conditions for workers. Yet Royal Mail's shares crashed by 17 percent on one day last week as Back admitted his plans were "behind schedule".

A strike ballot by Parcelforce workers was not affected by the court order—and they could still strike against the transfer. They should be called out on strike and CWU members in Royal Mail re-balloted as soon as possible.

Bosses are also apparently worried that the use of agency workers could provoke anger if they're seen to take work away from the regular workforce.

Mark said, "If there was unofficial action they know the consequences—that it will disrupt the general election."



# Still more countries are joining the global uprising

Strikes in Peru and Colombia have marked the spread of revolt, as people demand change writes **Charlie Kimber**

**THE REVOLT against neoliberalism and corruption has spread to new countries in Latin America**

In Colombia huge numbers of workers struck and there were major demonstrations on Thursday of last week. The strike was the largest the country has seen for more than 40 years.

The BBC reported that more than 250,000 took part in marches, but organisers claim the real figure is 1.5 million or more.

Hundreds of thousands marched through the capital of Bogotá, closing 130 bus stations.

At least 20,000 marched in Cali, and tens of thousands more participated in over 100 cities and towns across Colombia.

The protests continued for days, despite Colombia's president Ivan Duque ordering police and troops on to the streets.

They have killed at least three protesters.

The trigger for the revolt was possible changes to the minimum wage, pensions and the privatisation of state companies.

But as with other countries the underlying issue is bitter anger at inequality and the lack of real democracy.

Colombia's three richest people own more than 10 percent of the country's annual production.

The protests are not spontaneous. They were prepared for weeks by a coalition of groups angry at the government and rule by the rich.

As Colombia erupted, 100,000 health workers in neighbouring Peru were in the second day of an indefinite strike.

They are demanding that the government of president Martin Vizcarra takes action over the

country's healthcare crisis. Hospitals lack basic medicines and other resources to treat patients.

Vizcarra, terrified of a growing movement, has pledged more money for health and a higher minimum wage.

Meanwhile in Chile protests and strikes continue despite concessions from the government.

An annual summit of Chile's business elite was held last week. Traditionally it brings together 500 super-rich to hear a congratulatory speech from the country's president.

This year the group convened only 120 attendees and had a psychiatrist address them instead. The gathering's title was "Day of Internal Reflection".

Even where there are not yet protests, rulers are nervous.

The Financial Times newspaper said on Monday, "Brazil is postponing a contentious overhaul of its public sector amid spreading social unrest in Latin America, spurring concerns about president Jair Bolsonaro's ability to push changes through a fractured Congress."

"As street protests continue to erupt from Chile to Colombia, the Brazilian leader backed off from the proposal."

However the recent coup in Bolivia should underline that the ruling classes across the continent will fight using every weapon it possesses to hang on to their power.

The interior minister of Bolivia's new right wing government has vowed to jail the former president Evo Morales for the rest of his life.

## More online

Global revolt shows we've had enough [bit.ly/swrevolt](http://bit.ly/swrevolt)

HUNDREDS OF thousands marched through the Colombian capital Bogotá last week

## Hong Kong voters back democracy

VOTERS IN Hong Kong delivered an unprecedented landslide for pro-democracy candidates in local elections last weekend.

The results shattered the myth that those who have taken to the streets for the last six months are an unrepresentative minority. The elections were essentially a referendum on the protests, and massively backed them.

Pro-democracy candidates won a majority of seats on all 18 councils, although they will control only 17 because a large number of government appointees shifted the balance of power in the Islands district.

Pro-Chinese government candidates won only just over

10 percent of the 452 openly contested seats.

Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam said on Monday her government would respect the election results and would "listen humbly" to the views of the public. But the Chinese government was less restrained.

"Any attempts to create chaos in Hong Kong or to jeopardise its prosperity and stability will not be successful," said the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi.

Police brutally attacked protesters at Hong Kong Polytechnic University recently. But renewed protests will be needed, as well as reaching out to China's workers and migrant workers in Hong Kong.

Voters celebrate the results

## Demonstrators killed in Iran

SECURITY FORCES in Iran have reportedly killed at least 115 protesters after a new protest movement erupted last week.

Thousands of people have taken to the streets in around 100 towns and cities in Iran after the government announced a huge increase in fuel prices.

Iranians have suffered years of

austerity, rising prices and high unemployment in a prolonged financial crisis caused by privatisation, corruption and US-imposed economic sanctions.

Ali Fadavi, deputy commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corp, said security forces would put the protests down, claiming that they

were instigated by the West.

He later said the protests were organised by "foreign agents," and "thugs."

Western governments, led by the US, have hypocritically backed the protests.

Yet its economic sanctions against Iran are a major cause of ordinary people's poverty and hardship.

Protesters in Iran



## A Johnson win would boost the fascists

THE FACT that Tommy Robinson last week endorsed Boris Johnson for prime minister is not very surprising.

It shows everything you need to know about the both of them.

I think they have similar agendas and neither of them care about minorities—whether that's ethnic minorities or the LGBT+ community.

Having someone like Johnson as prime minister gives hope to fascists like Robinson.

They think that if Johnson can do it, then they can as well.

So if he does win, that would be a massive boost for the far right and help them to push their agenda. They are against immigration and just want a hard Brexit with or without a deal.

I came face to face with the far right campaigning against Robinson, when he was standing to be an MEP for the North West of England during the European elections in May.

We turned out in Warrington to tell Robinson that he's not welcome in our town.

And ultimately, his supporters just turned violent.

I ended up getting my nose broken after having four guys beating the shit out of me.

People really need to listen to what's going on in this election and get Johnson out.

Alice Edwards  
Warrington



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

## PM's response to flooding shows he's part of the elite

BORIS JOHNSON'S response to the flooding in South Yorkshire exposed that he doesn't understand what it's like to live on very little money (Socialist Worker, 20 November).

I live in Bentley, Doncaster, where both Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn visited.

My house wasn't flooded, but I've got a friend whose entire home was wrecked. The whole of Hunt Lane, where they live, was up to the waist in water.

I think people were angry because Johnson comes from such a different background.

Everything was damaged—people's homes, carpets, TVs and other possessions—and many

worry about how they'll replace them. Johnson has never had to struggle with anything like normal people do. When he came, it was like he was an alien.

I know people from Fishlake—an area that was badly affected—and they criticised Johnson for the whole time he was there.

I don't think he will be getting any northern support in the general election, not from people I know anyway.

All Johnson has attempted to do is damage control.

But Tory cuts have definitely had an impact. There's a caravan park in Doncaster and it has no flood defences in the slightest, or proper drainage systems. And the place in

Bentley that got flooded is nowhere near the river and so poorly built.

Bentley is run down completely—it has no money going into it and nothing gets fixed.

When Corbyn came to Doncaster, he was so sympathetic to people and was talking to them like an actual person.

I think Corbyn's message will get support in Doncaster because he tried to do something and give a hand.

In future there need to be more flooding warnings and defences, and more in place for people who are affected.

Toni Force  
Doncaster

## Lib Dems—the nuclear option for middle class

I CAN'T believe that anyone would consider the Lib Dems to be a progressive choice in the general election (Socialist Worker, 20 November).

For a start party leader Jo Swinson didn't hesitate saying she'd launch nuclear missiles—which would murder millions of people.

Second, they are to the right of the Tories on austerity and economic policy.

Swinson has attacked the Boris Johnson for making

“uncosted” spending commitments.

Swinson herself was a business minister in the Tory Lib Dem coalition government.

They quickly ditched quite progressive policies, such as an amnesty for undocumented migrants.

And now Swinson has hinted that she would prop up a Tory minority government in exchange for a second referendum—has she no shame?

Julia Ryder  
Worcestershire

## Oxford Union racism is tip of iceberg

EBENEZER AZAMATI, a black visually-impaired student, being dragged out of the Oxford Union shows how endemic racism is at our universities.

Oxford University sought to wipe their hands clean, claiming that it has no influence over the debating society.

And Brendan McGrath only resigned as union president following pressure from the African Caribbean Society and anti-racist organisations.

This is a racist matter. The Oxford Union has



Ebenezer Azamati

constantly invited racist speakers, but they prevent a black student from attending their events.

Oxford is not alone in having the plague of racism on its campus.

At Lancaster University

the Snowsports Society wore wearing shirts with racial slurs on them last year. Moreover, far right group Generation Identity has been trying to build on campuses.

One key reason behind this is that universities do not take racism seriously.

But people have been fighting back. Our side should not just be responsive to racist incidents. We need to grow and make sure that every place is an anti-racist zone.

Harjeevan Gill  
West London

Just a thought...

## You're hard on Evo Morales

SOCIALIST EVO Morales, who was removed in a coup earlier this month, was president of Bolivia for 13 years (Socialist Worker, 20 November).

He slashed poverty by half, halved infant mortality, reduced chronic malnourishment of children from 27 percent to 16 percent and almost tripled the electrification of rural homes. And Socialist Worker writes this week that this was “not ambitious enough”.

Jeremy Corbyn has been in office for zero years. He has betrayed the Palestine solidarity movement, promises to renew Trident nuclear weapons and hire more border guards and police.

And what's Socialist Worker's verdict? “Vote Corbyn”!

Will Harney  
On Facebook

## Immigration hits workers

I READ your article on Unite union leader Len McCluskey being against free movement (Socialist Worker, 20 November).

Uncontrolled free movement hits the working class hardest. The middle class loves cheap labour.

Paul Moor  
On Facebook

■FREE movement should mean exactly that—not just a select few European Union countries, otherwise it's discriminatory.

How can any true socialist be against it?

Ian Walker  
On Facebook

## Don't buy racist myths

BLAMING working class immigrants for lowering wages is nothing but propaganda with the aim of distracting us from what the ruling class is doing.

We should blame the capitalist class and politicians who make the laws.

Paul Zabulon Grant  
On Facebook

■HOW WILL robbing workers of free movement improve their ability to earn money? McCluskey is a dinosaur.

Chez Branger  
On Facebook



**W**ORLD leaders will debate the “next crucial steps in the climate change process” at United Nations (UN) talks in Madrid next week.

The Cop25 negotiations will see officials from hundreds of countries argue about how to implement previous climate agreements, the 1990 Kyoto Protocol and the 2016 Paris Accords.

What happens in Madrid matters. And what happens in Glasgow next year matters even more—at this summit officials will log how they are implementing the Paris agreements.

Both summits are an opportunity for activists to put the climate emergency to front and pile pressure on our rulers to act. But are bodies such as the UN and international agreements between capitalist states the answer to climate catastrophe?

It can appear progressive that politicians are willing to sit down and negotiate treaties to slow down climate catastrophe.

Their talk of cooperation can seem like an alternative to the nationalist rhetoric of right wingers such as Donald Trump, who pulled the US out of the Paris Accords.

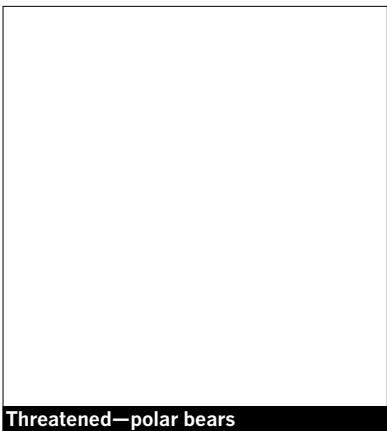
But international agreements have a poor record of delivering the action needed to tackle climate change.

Touted as “ground breaking” at the time, the Paris deal doesn’t offer any serious chance of taking on climate chaos. Some 180 states promised to “aspire” to keep global temperatures “well below” 2 degrees.

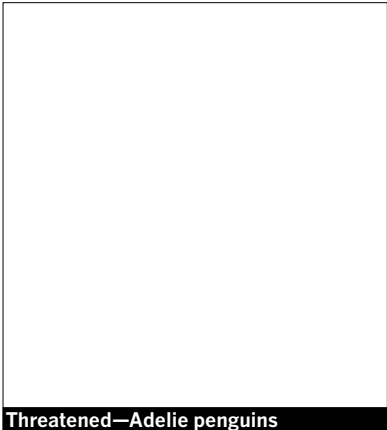
But since then the UN’s own scientific body—the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—has argued that 1.5 degrees offers a much better chance of avoiding the worst-case scenario.

And the agreements over carbon emissions reached after two weeks of tense negotiations weren’t legally-binding anyway. The agreement included the “carbon budget”—the amount that scientists said could be burnt without tipping the temperature over the 2 degree level.

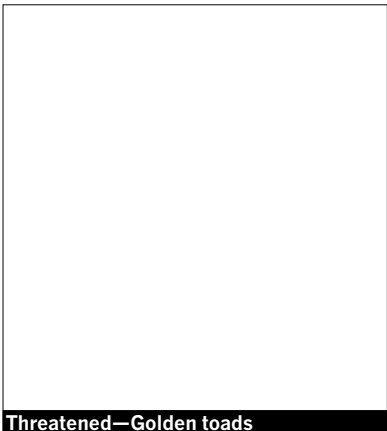
But politicians set their carbon



Threatened—polar bears



Threatened—Adelie penguins



Threatened—Golden toads

budget at 2.5 times higher than a level that would only give us a 66 percent chance of keeping the temperature low enough.

They promised to review countries emissions contributions every five years. But it took three years for politicians to even agree how to record emissions at last year’s summit in Poland.

The toothless nature of the agreements isn’t just down to politicians’ incompetence.

These summits aren’t based on an altruistic desire for international solidarity, but a tool for maintaining “business as usual” under capitalism.

Capitalist competition means that the fossil fuels giants and other corporations always try to maximise profits at the expense of workers and the planet.

If they didn’t, they would fall behind and a rival would take their place.

Under capitalism the state isn’t a neutral or democratically accountable body that can be used by whatever party people elect.

They are vast bureaucracies that look out for the interests of their own capitalists.

And like capitalist firms, capitalist states compete with one another for world markets and resources. So international



GOVERNMENTS PREPARING FOR UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE ARE

# FLOATING ON SEA OF LIES

THE COP 2019 GLOBAL GATHERING ANALYSED BY **SARAH BATES**

negotiations bring together officials from capitalist states whose job it is to further their own interests of the global stage.

While these states have rival interests, they are united by a common goal of solidifying the capitalist system as a whole.

This means the ruling class sometimes looks to international bodies to further their interests.

But these international committees of the capitalist class have a bloody history of protecting their members.

The League of Nations—forerunner to the UN—is often presented as an attempt to build peace after the

horrors of the First World War. The rulers of the US, Britain, France and the other victors wanted stability after the slaughter and the revolutionary wave that the war unleashed.

But the Western powers wanted a peace where they could still dominate weaker countries.

So, for instance, the League played a critical role in the European imperialist powers carve-up of the Middle East after 1918.

The UN has backed imperialist war with resolutions and troops on the ground, sometimes under the guise of “peacekeeping missions”. When powerful states disagree with UN

decisions, they are willing to ignore them or just bypass the body.

One example is the invasion of Iraq in 2003. And how many UN resolutions have been passed about Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians?

Yet US imperialism’s most important ally in the Middle East gets away with it.

Rather than reining in the powerful or ironing out global competition, international bodies reflect the inequality in the world system.

For instance, the UN climate bodies are deeply divided over how to tackle production of carbon emissions. It reflects how the shared interest of

China produces most coal

The us drills for oil in the Antarctic

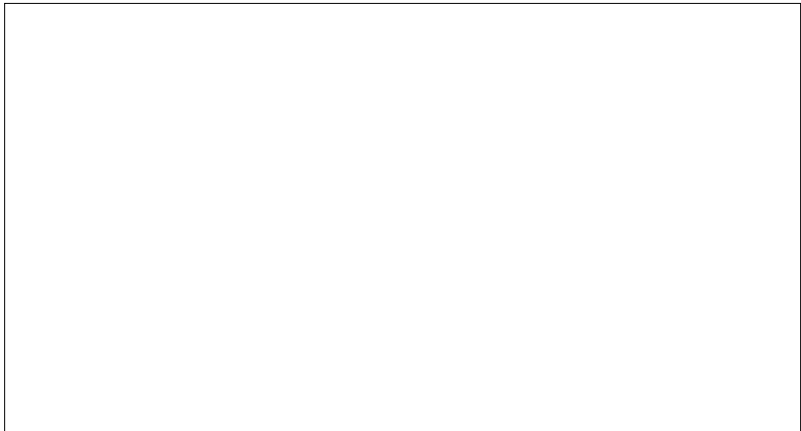
maintaining “businesses as usual” can come into conflict with the vested interests of each individual state.

Countries in the Global South, such as China or India, are industrialising at a much faster rate than others now.

Their development was partly held back by Western domination, but now they are catching up.

And states that industrialised earlier such as the US and Britain say that they are unwilling to cut back on carbon emissions until others do. They don’t want to risk falling behind rivals in the global economy.

In Britain the Climate Change Act 2008 commits the British government



CAPITALISM'S INTENSIVE farming techniques are wrecking the planet

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels. The bill said this should happen by 2050.

But instead of working to actually reduce emissions, government bodies massage the figures to make it appear as though this is happening.

The Committee on Climate Change claims that in 2018 emissions were 44 percent lower than 1990.

But that’s because their figures don’t include emissions from international aviation, shipping and imports—all huge contributors.

**THIS DYNAMIC is why decades of climate negotiations can look like the world’s most deadly game of pass the buck. Inger Anderson, the UN Environment Programme executive director, explained, “The world’s energy supply remains dominated by coal, oil and gas.**

“They drive emissions levels that are inconsistent with climate goals.”

But it’s no surprise that emissions continue to rise when the agreement in Paris didn’t mention gas, oil and coal reserves. Fossil fuel production isn’t stopping, or even stagnating.

It’s growing—and one of the key sites lies just a few miles off the coast of Scotland.

Ten oil companies are pouring £6.8 billion worth of investment into six projects in the North Sea.

Mim Black from Extinction Rebellion Scotland blasted the plans, which are set for approval in the next year. “They stubbornly and greedily continue to pump as much oil as they possibly can out of the North Sea in pursuit of private profit,” they said.

“If this greed is allowed to continue, we face a future of climate apartheid, where the richest can afford to protect themselves from the worst effects of climate change and the rest suffer hugely.”

Mike Coffin, an analyst at the Carbon Tracker, said, “Companies who have expressed an ambition to

align with the Paris agreement would be contradicting that ambition with their decisions.”

The think tank has outlined plans for how oil giants would have to make huge cuts to their production by 2040 to keep emissions in line with Paris.

It said that BP would have to slash production by 25 percent, with other firms facing a cut of up to 85 percent.

And it said the fossil fuel industry as a whole should reduce its production by more than a third by 2040.

“The industry is trying to have its cake and eat it—reassuring shareholders and appearing supportive of Paris while still producing more fossil fuels,” said Coffin.

The UN admitted last that week that the worlds’ richest nations were set to sail through the targets set in Paris.

It outlined ten nations that had plans in plans to extract fossil fuels at a rate 50-120 percent higher than that proposed in the agreement.

The UN analyses the plans of Britain, China, US, Russia, India, Australia, Indonesia, Canada, Germany and Norway.

Under current plans, these ten countries would lead to 39 gigatonnes of carbon emissions—53 percent higher than what is needed to reduce temperature rise to 2 degrees.

And it’s estimated that the level is some 120 percent higher than what the maximum for 2 degrees would be. The research also said it was 280 percent over the limit of an amount that could limit warming to 1.5 degrees.

The projections make for gloomy reading. But the increasingly desperate warnings from climate scientists has helped spark a much bigger and more combative climate crisis movement.

It saw seven million people strike together to demand immediate action to save our world in September.

And the occupations hosted by Extinction Rebellion throughout central London have raised people’s sights that it is possible to resist our rules and fight for the planet.

Strikes, protests and occupations have won some gains.

Action by ordinary people, who have the power to shut down their system, is the way for winning genuine change. Waiting for the rich and powerful to reach an agreement will be sure to result to the worst-case scenario for climate catastrophe.

The ruling class share the most important interest of all—the desire to keep their wealth and power. It’s this interest that is their guiding light and that prevents them from tackling the polluting firms destroying our world.

The real solution lies in building a world that has ordinary people making meaningful decisions about their lives.



**It’s no surprise that emissions continue to rise. The Paris accords didn’t even count fossil fuels**



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

### { SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### EXETER

**Booklaunch: Boris Johnson—A Dangerous Man**  
Wed 4 Dec, 7pm,  
The Exeter Peace Shop,  
31 New Bridge St,  
EX4 3AH

### { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

#### ABERDEEN

**Is our diet destroying the planet?**

Mon 2 Dec, 6pm,  
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,  
6-8 Little Belmont St,  
AB10 1JG

#### BARNSELEY

**Tories out—what would a Corbyn Government look like?**

Thu 5 Dec, 7pm,  
Room 302, The Civic,  
Hanson St, S70 2HZ

#### BRISTOL

**Capitalism—will it go quietly?**

Thu 5 Dec, 7.30pm,  
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,  
BS1 4QA

#### CHESTERFIELD

**Can the Green New Deal prevent climate catastrophe?**

Thu 5 Dec, 7pm,  
Chesterfield Library,  
New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

#### COVENTRY

**Why does capitalism need borders?**

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
The Golden Cross, 8 Hay Ln,  
CV1 5RF

#### DERBY

**Tories out—what would a Corbyn Government look like?**

Thu 5 Dec, 7pm,  
West End Community Centre,  
Mackworth Rd (next to Britannia Mill), DE22 3BL

#### DUNDEE

**The socialist case for Scottish independence**

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Dundee Voluntary Action,  
10 Constitution Rd,  
DD1 1LL

#### EDINBURGH

**Who really rules Britain today?**

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
7 Victoria St,  
EH1 2JL

#### GLASGOW

**Capitalism, climate and food—capitalism devours our planet**

Thu 5 Dec, 7pm,  
Avant Garde,  
33-44 King St,  
Merchant City, G1 5QT



CANVASSING FOR Labour in west London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## Jeremy Corbyn, the election and the fight for socialism

#### BIRMINGHAM

Wed 4 Dec, 7pm,  
The Church at  
Carrs Lane,  
Carrs Ln,  
B4 7SX

#### BLACK COUNTRY

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
St. Peter's Café,  
4 Exchange St,  
WV1 1TS

#### BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Red Triangle Cafe,  
160 St James's  
St, BB11 1NR

#### LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Thu 5 Dec, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Lane,  
LA1 1TX

#### LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
William Morris  
Community Centre,  
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,  
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

#### HARLOW

**Women and the far right**

Thu 5 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
1 Church Leys, CM18 6BX

#### LONDON: HACKNEY

**Freedom of movement—why we say no borders**

Thu 5 Dec, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd,  
E5 0PU

#### LONDON: KINGSTON

**Housing and homelessness—can there be a home for everyone?**

Thu 5 Dec, 6pm,  
Room JG3003,  
Penrhyn Road Campus,  
Kingston University,  
KT1 2EE

#### LONDON: SOUTH EAST

**Migration and climate change**

Wed 4 Dec, 7pm,  
Deptford Lounge, 9 Giffin St,  
SE8 4RH

#### LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

**Hong Kong, mass protests and the working class**

Wed 11 Dec, 7.30pm,  
William Morris  
Community Centre,  
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,  
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

#### LONDON: WEST & NORTHWEST

**Why Karl Marx was right**

Thu 5 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Woodlane Community Centre,  
78 White City Cl,  
Shepherd's Bush,  
W12 7DZ

#### NEWCASTLE

**Marxism and ecology**

Wed 4 Dec, 7pm,  
Floor 2, Commercial  
Union House,  
39 Pilgrim St, NE1 6QE

#### NORWICH

**Can a Green New Deal stop environmental catastrophe?**

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place,  
NR2 2SA

#### PORTSMOUTH

**Islamophobia today—racism and the politics of fear**

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown  
Community Centre,  
River's St, PO5 4EZ

#### SCARBOROUGH

**Did Lenin lead to Stalin?**

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Tap and Spile,  
94 Falsgrave Rd,  
YO12 5AZ

#### SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

**Capitalism and the creation of the Global South**

Thu 5 Dec, 7pm,  
Central United  
Reformed Church,  
60 Norfolk St (near  
Crucible Theatre),  
S1 2JB

#### YORK

**Bolivia—the end of the Pink Tide in South America?**

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm,  
Sea Horse Hotel,  
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

### { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

**DORCHESTER**  
**After the election—reform vs revolution**

Thu 19 Dec, 1.30pm,  
Colliton Club,  
Colliton Park,  
DT1 1XJ  
Organised by the  
Dorset Socialists

#### GLASGOW

**St Andrew's Day anti-racist march**

Sat 30 Nov, 10.30am,  
Glasgow Green  
G1 5DB

#### LONDON

**No to Trump—No to Nato**  
Tue 3 Dec, 4pm, Trafalgar Sq

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# Motherless Brooklyn—a feast for film noir fans old and new

Edward Norton's new film is an ode to past classics that also takes a fresh look at the inequality and corruption of today, says **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

**DIRECTOR EDWARD** Norton's *Motherless Brooklyn* brings back the best of film noir detectives to dig through the dirt of modern society.

His film has got the whole package—moody urban settings, gangster-politicians, sharp dialogues and sharp suits and hats. At times it feels like one big ode to the classic, *The Maltese Falcon*.

But it does more than just revel in the film noir aesthetic.

*Motherless Brooklyn* follows Lionel (Norton), a private investigator who uncovers a world of corruption as he tries to find out who killed his boss and friend.

Frank Minna (Bruce Willis) was onto “something big”—and even his colleagues don't quite know what.

Lionel's tourettes, sensitively played by Norton, means he feels an outsider. The deeper he digs, the more complex the web of intrigue between politicians, housing developers and the community organisers fighting back.

At times this can make the story harder to follow, but the fast pace helps to tie together the subplots.

The film is based on a lesser-known novel of the same name by Jonathan Lethem. While the novel is based in the 1990s, Norton transplants the story to 1950s New York.

## Bullies

But it's meant to be about today, which Norton sees as a “world of bullies and racists”. While it uses history to interrogate the present, the film has an updated feel.

The “femme fatal” trope, for instance, is turned on its head by Gugu Mbatha Raw who portrays lawyer Laura Rose.

When the mystery is tied together, there's a verbal showdown between Lionel and politician building magnate Moses Randolph (Alec Baldwin).

Baldwin's speech is like a candid monologue to the audience from a Donald Trump or Harvey Weinstein about the exercise of power and unequal relationships.

As well as being about today, the film takes a swipe at the past.

In the 1940s film noir reflected a growing radicalism that was critical of US institutions. Much of that changed during McCarthyism—a series of witchhunts in the 1950s targeting the left.

*Motherless Brooklyn*'s world shows a deeply divided and racist society in the shadows of the American Dream.

Norton has made a feast for those old and new to noir.

*Motherless Brooklyn* directed by Edward Norton is out from 6 December

## William Hogarth



'THE HUMOURS of an Election, 4: Chaining the Member' (1754-55) by William Hogarth

PICTURE: 1996-98 AccuSoft Inc., ALL RIGHT

## Powerful art shows up an ugly system

### EXHIBITION

#### HOGARTH: PLACE AND PROGRESS

Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3BP. Until 5 January. Free but book your timeslot at [soane.org](http://soane.org)

REVIEWS OF paintings by William Hogarth almost universally remark that his themes of corruption, prostitution, alcohol abuse and urban chaos are instantly recognisable today.

It's partially true. In the series *A Harlot's Progress* a girl from the countryside steps off a coach in Cheapside and is lured into sexual slavery.

Later, as her debts swell and her fortunes shrink, a bailiff enters to arrest her in a cramped bedroom.

When she dies from

syphilis, her coffin becomes an improvised drinks table.

But Hogarth's paintings and engravings, beautifully presented here, come from the first half of the eighteenth century.

It's a time when the capitalist class is on the rise, not hanging on in its exhausted and outmoded twilight.

So there's more honesty about what the market means. You see the pull of money everywhere—attracting nearly everyone but often sealing their doom.

*Marriage A-la-Mode* begins in the mansion of bankrupt Earl Squanderfield, who is arranging to marry his son to the daughter of a wealthy but mean city merchant.

As she is sold off a painting of a screaming Greek god, indicating horror, hangs above

her head. And the emerging capitalists know they are the future.

The series called *Humours of an Election* shows the cheating and double-dealing behind the majesty of parliament.

It ends with a victorious Tory candidate being carried through the streets (pictured).

The Whig leaders, closer to the capitalists, watch laughing from a nearby house. They lost today, they will win tomorrow.

Hogarth can seem contemptuous of the “idle poor” and he became worse as he aged. But these are great paintings.

If you go, make sure to look out for the elector being bribed by both sides in the picture *Canvassing for Votes*. To me he looks very like Nigel Farage. **Charlie Kimber**

## PLAY

### I CAN GO ANYWHERE

Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge St, Edinburgh EH1 2ED. 7-21 Dec, from £5

STEVIE IS a disillusioned academic dealing with a tough break up.

“Jimmy the Mod” wants Stevie's help with an upcoming interview that will determine whether he can stay in Britain.

And he plans to argue his case on the basis that he is “100 percent mod”.

The Traverse Theatre describes the play as “a mod anthem to solidarity and acceptance in an increasingly hostile world”.

## PLAY



Anansi is in trouble in Bristol

### ANANSI AND THE GRAND PRIZE

Bristol Old Vic, King St, Bristol BS1 4ED. 9-21 Dec, from £13

ANANSI FACES ruin unless he can win a grand prize in a dance and music festival.

But an international reggae-soul superstar is gunning for the prize too.

Anansi is a trickster who often appears as a spider in West African folktales.

The play “combines the colour, humour and dynamic dance of Africa and the Caribbean”.

## What's on at BOOKMARKS the socialist bookshop

### Vital Signs—The Deadly Costs of Health Inequality

With author Lee Humber Tue 10 December, 6.30pm. £2 on the door



1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE  
020 7637 1848  
[bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)



**THE Labour manifesto released last week spoke of “shifting the balance of power back towards workers”.**

But in February 1974 Labour was elected on a manifesto that went much further—at least in words.

It promised to “bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people and their families”.

Such pledges were the result of a move left at Labour conferences and among party members. This in turn was a pale reflection of a stormy period of class struggle.

The Tory government of Edward Heath, elected in 1970, had tried to hold down wages and push new anti-union laws. Instead of deadening struggle, Heath provoked mass resistance.

Total strike days reached 10,980,000 in 1970 and 11,551,000 in 1971, climbing to 23,909,000 in 1972.

These were the highest figures since the 1920s. For comparison, the figure in 2018 was 273,000 strike days—1972’s was 88 times higher.

There were over 200 occupations of shipyards, factories, offices and workshops between 1972 and 1974. Workers won important battles over wages.

Strike days fell sharply in 1973, but the start of 1974 was dominated by a national miners’ strike.

Historian Royden Harrison wrote, “The Labour Unrest of 1970–74 was far more massive and incomparably more successful than its predecessor of 1910 to 1914.

“Millions of workers became involved. Some of them began to exhibit an ominous concern with the conditions of distribution as well as production.”

The government was forced to declare a state of emergency five times. Also fuelling the political mood was deep bitterness at the rich.

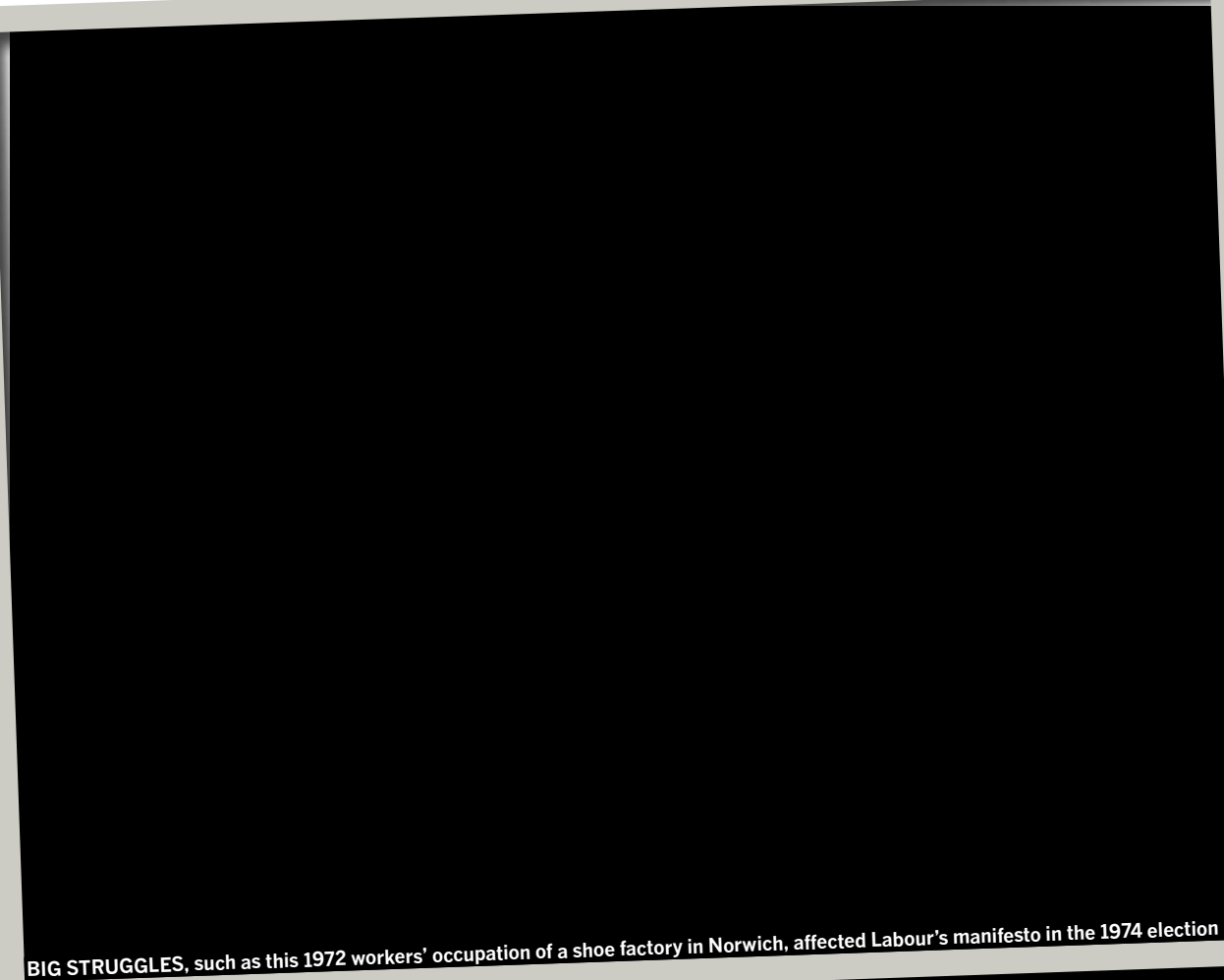
#### Ghastly

Labour MP Phillip Whitehead told the House of Commons in 1974, “I quote one commentary upon these deep divisions. ‘Who will readily forget the brazenly swollen profits of the banks, of the ghastly band of usurers trading in second mortgages, the property speculators.’

“That is not from the Morning Star or from some Trotskyist tract distributed at factory gates. It is from the biographer of Edward Heath.”

By 1974 almost half of all workers were in unions—the figure today is less than a quarter of the workforce. Struggles were led by groups of rank and file militants, not Labour.

As Tony Cliff and Donny Gluckstein wrote, “The Labour Party as such did nothing to develop mass militancy,



# VOTING LEFT ISN'T ENOUGH

Jeremy Corbyn’s radical manifesto isn’t the first time that Labour has pledged to take on the rich. Charlie Kimber looks at how this played out for the 1974 government



Jeremy Corbyn

although a great number of Labour Party supporters were involved in the action.” So it was not surprising that Labour didn’t benefit electorally from the higher level of struggle.

Many of those involved in workplace resistance remembered how right wing and anti-union the 1964–70 Labour governments had been.

Although Labour won the general election of February 1974, its vote was lower than in 1970 by over half a million.



**Refusing to confront capital, Labour attacked workers**

Compared to 1966, there had been a loss of 1,418,560—or 10 percent.

But the scale of workplace battles—and the fact that Labour was in opposition—pushed party policies left.

Labour leader Harold Wilson became prime minister at the head of a minority government that was supposed to implement a very radical set of policies.

Its manifesto had said it would enforce public ownership of “North Sea and Celtic Sea

oil and gas resources”. In addition, “Land required for development will be taken into public ownership.”

The list went on. “We shall also take shipbuilding, ship repairing and marine engineering, ports, the manufacture of airframes and aeroengines into public ownership and control.”

The list would also include “sections of pharmaceuticals, road haulage, construction, machine tools”.

Labour committed to “an annual wealth tax on the rich”. But very few of these measures were even partially carried out by Wilson.

There were some small reforms at first. And a handful of bankrupt companies gratefully accepted temporary public ownership to avoid total collapse.

But almost as soon as the government was in office, big business swung into action to make sure it knew who was really in charge.

Campbell Adamson, director-general of the bosses’ Confederation of British Industry, wrote, “I remember going through a whole list of actions that our side might have to take.

“We certainly discussed an investment strike—the possibility of industry withholding its investment.

“But we also discussed various things about not paying various taxes, and a list—I don’t know that I want to be very specific—but a list of things which in themselves would not have been legal.”

**THIS IS the same CBI that Jeremy Corbyn now speaks to and assures them that Labour is not “anti-business”.**

In fact the bosses’ threats were largely unnecessary.

Instead of implementing a radical programme Labour was consumed with dealing with a growing global economic recession and rampant inflation. Refusing to confront capitalist priorities head on, Labour attacked workers.

Wilson, and James Callaghan who took over as prime minister in 1976, were far more effective at holding down wages than the Tories had been.

Under Heath, union leaders couldn’t argue for holding back from wage demands “in the national interest”.

Yet under Labour, the idea of what was called the Social Contract meant union leaders policed their members and persuaded them to accept cuts.

The Labour government turned the average 2 percent annual wage rises between 1948 and 1973 into a 1.6 percent average annual fall.

By 1978 fewer council houses were being built than in any year since the Second World War.

Twenty five thousand hospital beds went in the first two years of the Labour

government. Prices doubled between February 1974 and December 1978.

A thousand jobs a day were lost in Labour’s first three years. Unemployment was 500,000 in 1974. It reached 1.6 million in 1976.

An economist wrote in The Observer newspaper in 1977, “The past 12 months have almost certainly seen the sharpest fall in the real living standards of Britain’s working population in any year for at least a century, including the wars.”

And a Financial Times columnist commented, “I cannot think of any reason why anyone should consider voting Conservative at the next general election. We are already served by about as good a conservative government as we are likely to get.”

But the bosses did not fully trust Labour.

In March 1976 some left wing Labour MPs defeated a government plan for spending cuts. This failure to carry out every element of the capitalists’ agenda led to swift reprisals.

Financiers began selling off the pound, and its value plunged against other currencies. It reached a record low against the dollar in June 1976.

The US Treasury Secretary and other top bankers stepped in to offer a loan to support the pound on condition that big cuts went through. The Labour cabinet agreed.

As pressure on the pound continued, the government approached the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a massive loan in September 1976.

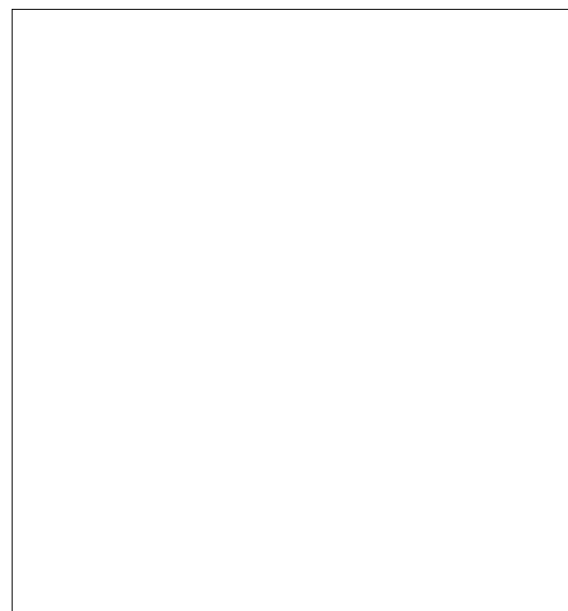
IMF negotiators demanded heavy cuts in public expenditure and, after some debate, Labour gave in.

The cuts in 1977 were far bigger than anything the later government of Margaret Thatcher forced through.

There were strikes as workers’ patience was exhausted.

But they were frequently defeated because union leaders undermined the action and even encouraged scabbing to protect their precious Social Contract.

Eventually a huge wave of strikes burst out in 1978. Without a stable majority



**Harold Wilson (top) led a minority government in 1974. Cops confront Fine Tubes strikers in 1973 (above)**

ABOVE PICTURE: JOHN STURROCK

in parliament Callaghan called a general election. But he had so embittered many workers that they refused to vote Labour and the Tories won.

None of this was inevitable. There could have been enough resistance to the attacks to push back against Wilson and

Callaghan. The 1974–9 experience certainly does not mean that electing Corbyn’s Labour is worthless.

Booting out the Tories would boost ordinary people who have suffered a decade of austerity.

And electing someone who pledges to take on “the bankers, billionaires and the establishment” would be a kick in the teeth

## READ MORE

● **The Labour Party: A Marxist History** by Tony Cliff, Donny Gluckstein and Charlie Kimber £14.99

● **Marxism and Jeremy Corbyn’s Labour Party** Socialist Worker article by Charlie Kimber [bit.ly/Marxism-Corbyn](http://bit.ly/Marxism-Corbyn)

● **Harold Wilson’s legacy** Socialist Worker article by Simon Basketter [bit.ly/Wilson-legacy](http://bit.ly/Wilson-legacy)

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A Jeremy Corbyn supporter



## One-state solution is the only way to free Palestine

**Nick Clark looks at how Donald Trump’s plans for Israel are further damaging Palestine’s chances for freedom**

THE US announced last week that it considers Israeli settlements on Palestinian land to be legal.

The announcement comes at a time of crisis in Israeli politics. Last week prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu was indicted for fraud and bribery after accepting gifts from bosses in exchange for publicity.

Netanyahu is refusing to resign, so another election is likely.

While the indictment is bad news for Israel’s elite, the announcement by the US just seems to confirm reality for Palestinians.

Ever since Israel occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank more than 50 years ago, it has used its settlements to effectively annexe Palestinian land.

Some 700,000 people now live in vast settlement blocs that are effectively treated as if they are part of Israel.

While Israelis can travel seamlessly between settlements and the Israeli state proper, Palestinians lose ever more of their land.

And although the US has officially opposed settlement-building, it—along with the rest of the world—has effectively let Israel get away with this.

#### Advanced

Opposed it, that is, until last week. US secretary of state Mike Pompeo said that calling the settlements illegal had “not advanced the cause of peace.”

What he meant is that it doesn’t fit with president Donald Trump’s method of supporting Israel as a cornerstone of the US’s strategy to control the Middle East.

Since Trump came to office, he has ditched the notion of a “two-state solution”. Instead he is trying to push through what he calls the “deal of the century”.

#### AIRSTRIKES ON Palestine have intensified this month

Under this plan, Israel will be allowed to annexe settlement land, and keep full military control over the area.

Land left for the Palestinians won’t be any kind of state—just a series of fragments under Israeli military control.

Working towards this has included recognising Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and moving the US’s embassy there. Earlier this year Trump also said he considered the Golan Heights—land seized by from Syria—as part of Israel.

The two-state solution survived as an idea for as long as it appeared to offer Palestinian leaders the possibility of a state. It also satisfied the need of the Israeli state—founded on the basis of maintaining a Jewish ethnic majority in Palestine—to keep Arabs segregated.

Those in Israel who still back the two-state solution do so on the basis that they can’t bear the thought of having to live alongside Arabs. Amir Peretz, leader of Israel’s once-dominant Labor Party, opposed last week’s

announcement because it would allow “millions of Palestinians to demand full citizenship and equal rights.”

But the idea of a two-state solution broke down long ago. In reality the supposed “peace process” that the two-state solution was founded on gave Israel an opportunity to extend and solidify its occupation.

#### Subordinated

In doing that, it has left little land for an independent Palestinian state—and what remains would be completely tied and subordinated to Israel.

There are only two solutions to this, and neither of them involve two states.

One is Trump’s plan—which means a new drive to clear Palestinians from their land. This is already underway, as Israel has increased its settlement building and attempts to clear surrounding Palestinian villages.

This is backed by all the major parties in Israel. Those that don’t, such as Labor, are marginalised.

That’s because in Israeli politics, the alternative is unacceptable. But it’s the only just, anti-racist one.

This is for Jews and Arabs to live together in a single, secular state with equal democratic rights for all of its citizens.

Achieving this new single state means accepting the end of a state founded on ethnic division—and supporting the struggle to make that possible.



**The land left for the Palestinians won’t be any kind of state**



# XR's Roger Hallam wrong on Holocaust

by ROBFERGUSON

**EXTINCTION Rebellion UK has rightly denounced remarks on the Holocaust made by co-founder Roger Hallam.**

Hallam downplayed the Holocaust as “just another fuckery in human history” and “almost a normal event”.

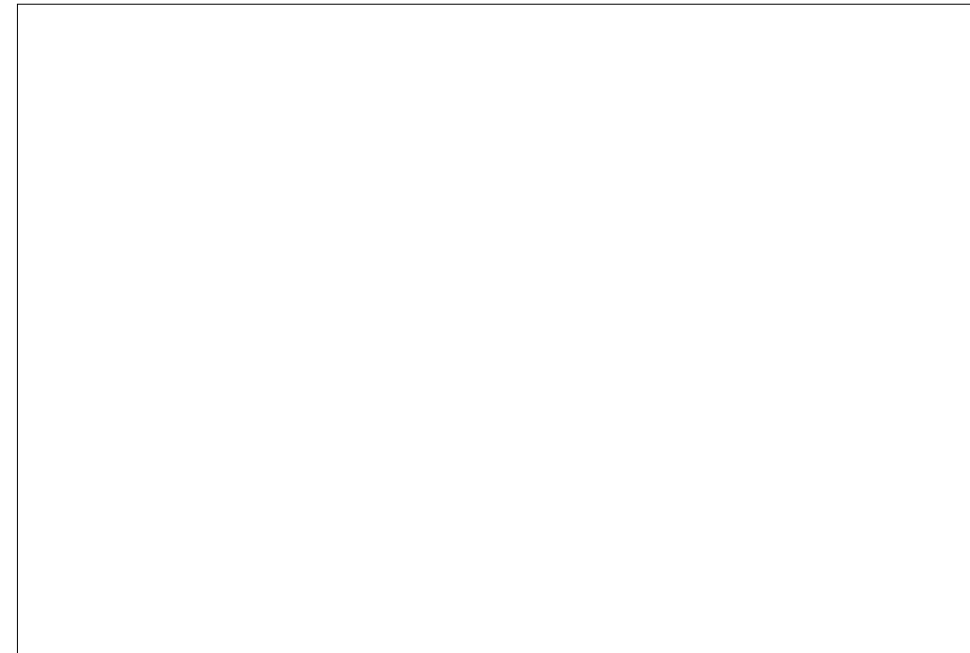
He appeared completely ignorant of how his remarks chimed with fascists and Holocaust deniers.

French Nazi, Jean-Marie Le Pen, former leader of the fascist Front National—now renamed National Rally—notoriously said the Holocaust was “a mere detail of history”.

Alexander Gauland of Germany's far right AfD party referred to the Nazi era as “mere bird shit” in a thousand years of Germany's history.

In defence of his comments, Hallam went on to counterpose the threat of extinction from climate change with the Holocaust.

He argued that “the real outrage is not to speak about the Holocaust, the real



VICTIMS OF the Holocaust—the greatest race crime in history

outrage is the complicity in the global holocaust that is already underway.”

The Holocaust was the greatest race crime in history.

It is not only a question of absolute numbers, which are horrific. Six million Jews were murdered in the Nazis'

“Final Solution to the Jewish Question”. It is that the Nazis' conscious aim, was to exterminate every single Jew in Europe.

It was the ideological character of the Holocaust that drove this horrific genocide. Two thirds of European

Jewry were systematically slaughtered using the most industrialised means.

In Poland, where most of pre-war European Jewry lived, 95 percent of Polish Jews died in ghettos and the gas chambers. The Nazis' aim was to repeat this everywhere

that Jews lived. It is a mistake not to recognise this unique character of the Holocaust and of fascist movements.

The Holocaust is the most extreme example of the barbarity of modern, industrialised capitalism.

This does not mean we should somehow rank atrocities and crimes against humanity in opposition to each other.

Slavery, the massacres in the Belgian Congo, colonial oppression, racism, ethnic cleansing and wars, whether past or present, are all rooted in the system that today threatens planetary extinction.

## Threat

Far right and fascist parties are a rising threat across the globe. Some are in government.

These forces promote antisemitism, Holocaust revisionism—and climate change denial.

Today's fascists may not deny the Holocaust outright.

Instead they often try to counterpose the fate of European Jewry to the suffering of other

victims—or as just one example of suffering among many.

They do so because they aim to re-establish the same foul ideology that led to the Holocaust itself.

Hallam's arguments can only play into their hands.

A recognition of the horror of the Holocaust and its roots in the current system has never been more important.

We need to mobilise mass movements against the threat of fascism today.

We also need to fight for an entirely different system and a different type of society.

One free of the threat of deliberate genocide or of planetary and human extinction due to uncontrolled, irrational, rampant capitalism.

We need a broad mass movement against climate change.

That movement needs to be one in which we learn from each other and in which politics and the direction of the movement are discussed openly.

It should not be left to individuals, however important a role they play.

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# Labour lays out a radical government programme

The party has launched its most left wing manifesto for decades. Nick Clark looks at what Jeremy Corbyn is promising us—and what he's leaving out

 **THE Labour Party launched what leader Jeremy Corbyn called its “manifesto for hope” last Thursday. He said it was an attempt to deliver “real change”—also the title of the manifesto.**

Confronting the climate crisis is front and centre of the manifesto. It's a sign that the Labour Party has been forced to adapt to the reality of the climate chaos.

And it also shows that—though neither Corbyn nor the manifesto mention them by name—the climate strikes and Extinction Rebellion protests have forced it onto the agenda.

New promises that go towards tackling the ecological catastrophe are tied to Labour's promise to greatly improve life for ordinary people.

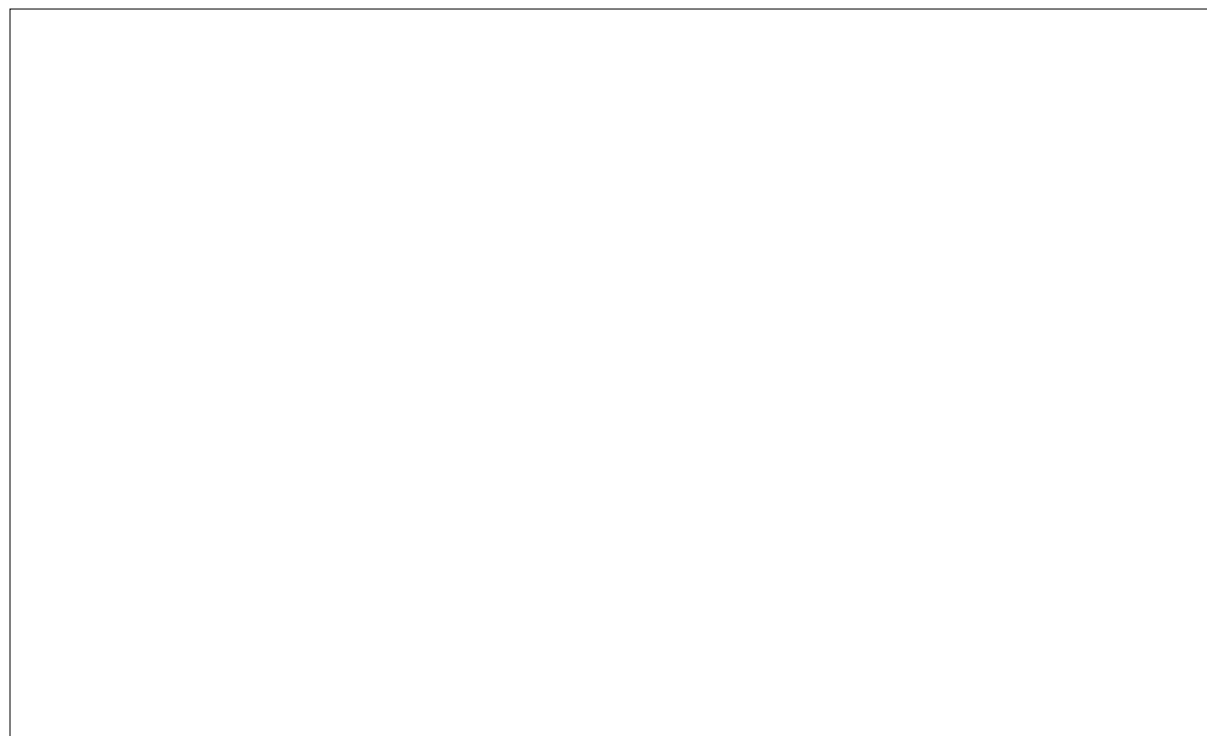
These include a million new climate jobs, and retraining workers in polluting industries for new, unionised jobs on “equivalent” terms and conditions.

It also pins the blame for the climate crisis on “private profit” which has “created a vastly unequal and polluting economy dominated by powerful vested interests”.

Another big headline promise is for 100,000 new homes built by councils “for social rent,” as well as 50,000 “social homes” every year. And it promises a rent cap on private landlords.

This is a slight improvement on Labour's 2017 manifesto, which promised 100,000 council and housing association homes a year.

Although reading between the lines, homes “built by councils for social rent” is not the same as council housing. Other new promises include restoring real-terms public sector pay



THE RICH have had ‘a free ride for too long,’ argued Corbyn

to pre-2010 levels, starting with a 5 percent increase, and to “end”—not just “reverse”—NHS privatisation.

And the manifesto also argued that, under a Labour government, hospitals would no longer have to tender out services.

Labour also says it will renationalise Royal Mail and scrap the hated Universal Credit benefit. The tone of the manifesto is more combative than the one Labour released in 2017.

The foreword by Corbyn talks not just about improving society—but the focus of the last manifesto—but

also challenging “the vested interests holding people back.”

“The big polluters, financial speculators and corporate tax-dodgers have had a free ride for too long,” he says. That language needs a campaign and policies to match. Many passages in the manifesto talk about trying to persuade, encourage or help businesses get on board with Labour's policies.


Corbyn has spent this election campaign attempting to appear professional and there have been none of the open-air rallies of 2017. It makes

for a lacklustre campaign and it will also fail to persuade the bosses to allow a Corbyn government to implement even a fraction of the promises its new manifesto makes.

Implementing those changes means being willing to go further, and to confront the rich head on—and that needs a campaign based on struggle.

 **On other pages...**  
UCU members strike for pay and pensions >>Page 20


## Fighting for a four-day week

 Labour's manifesto includes the promise of a 32 hour—often referred to as the four day—working week.

This is good, but it will be “funded by productivity increases”—which for bosses could mean making work more intense.

Labour also says it will “repeal anti-trade union legislation” and “unnecessary” restrictions on industrial action, including the 2016 trade union act. But it doesn't commit to repealing all of the trade union laws introduced by Margaret Thatcher.

## Changing the school rules

 THE manifesto included plans to scrap Sats, bring back EMA grants and axe university tuition fees.


One policy that didn't quite make it into Labour's manifesto was to integrate private schools “into the public sector”.

Instead a Labour government will only ask a new “social justice commission” to give its opinion on this.

It doesn't quite say that academies and free schools—which are privately run—will be abolished either. But it does say their budgets and day-to-day decisions will be decided by an elected governing body.

Labour also promises to replace the hated schools inspector Ofsted.

## A climate crisis pledge

 **DEALING WITH the climate crisis means ending that system of profit—something which Labour's promises unfortunately only begin to touch on. It pledges to nationalise the “supply arms of the Big Six energy companies.”**

That supposedly doesn't include the bits of those companies that mine fossil fuels.

Labour says it will “take on the powerful interests that are causing climate change”. But the only method it suggests for stopping them is



NATIONALISE the big six


delisting companies from the London Stock Exchange if they “fail to contribute” to tackling the climate emergency.

And Labour will rely on profit-making companies to build green infrastructure.

After opposition from the GMB union, which disgracefully says siding with polluting industries is the way to protect jobs, the manifesto avoids any clear commitment on carbon emissions.

It only says that Labour will “achieve the substantial majority of our emissions reductions by 2030” and will “put the UK on track for a net-zero-carbon energy system within the 2030s”.

## Migrants' rights take a hit

 **LABOUR'S MANIFESTO makes a big concession to racism over the question of migrants' rights.**

Its section on migration—which comes as part of a chapter on “tackling poverty and inequality—says freedom of movement is “subject to negotiations.”

There are migrants Labour wants to let in and, implicitly, those it wants to keep out.

It criticises the Tories' “failure” on immigration—both for keeping out “essential key workers” such as nurses, and for missing targets to lower migration.

It wants a work visa system designed to “recruit the people we need”—and by definition exclude


migrants it considers less useful. This is couched in the language of protecting workers. It accuses “bad bosses” and the Tories of driving down wages by “undercutting” them with migrant workers.

The manifesto also complains that the Tories have “weakened our borders” and made public sector workers check people's migration status, “creating a hostile environment.”

Instead Labour says it will “review our border controls to make them more effective.”

But that means more of the measures that force people into the hands of people smugglers, and into the back of refrigerated lorries.

## Laying down the war policy

 **THE manifesto promises an inquiry into Britain's complicity in torture and rendition of terror suspects.**

It also says it will allow the Chagos islanders—forcibly deported from their island home under the Harold Wilson government—the right to return. It will also suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia, and some arms to Israel.

But it confirms that Labour will renew the Trident nuclear weapons.



## IN BRIEF

**Protest stops Slovak fascists' meeting**

ANTI-FASCISTS, including dozens of Roma people, halted a planned gathering of the fascist People's Party—Our Slovakia (LSNS) in central London last Saturday.

The Sinti Holocaust Memorial Trust and Unite Against Fascism called the counter-protest. Earlier in the week, pressure from anti-fascists in Britain and Slovakia saw a Slovak LSNS MP and MEP pull out from speaking at the meeting.

The LSNS has Nazi roots and its members have been involved in vicious anti-Roma persecution.

**Paul Sillett**

**Coventry university appraisals action**

UCU UNION members at Coventry university struck on Tuesday over a new appraisal system.

It was the first of five planned walkouts following a successful strike on Thursday of last week. Union members are fighting a system that makes it harder for them to get pay rises than staff at other institutions.

Workers planned further strikes on Friday of this week, and on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

**Renfrew bus fight for pay equality**

WORKERS AT McGill's buses in Renfrewshire struck over pay on Tuesday.

The Unite union members are fighting for parity between workers who were transferred on a contract from Arriva and those who have worked at McGill's for longer.

Around 50 workers voted by 85 percent for strikes.

More strikes at the Inchinnan and Johnstone depots are planned for 2 and 9 December

**Determined fights over library cuts**

LIBRARY AND museum workers in West Yorkshire plan a week-long walkout from Monday of next week.

The Unite union members in Bradford are fighting against the Labour-run council's plans to push through nearly £2 million in cuts by 2021.

Meanwhile, library workers in Bromley, south east London, remain on indefinite strike. Unite union members are fighting subcontractor GLL's plans to slash 35 percent of frontline jobs.

**Victoria Line strike won't run this week**

STRIKES DUE to hit the Victoria line this week were suspended to "allow for the issues at the heart of the dispute to be addressed", said the workers' RMT union.

They are fighting over pay and harassment.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT



**DRIVERS AND** passenger escorts who take disabled children to school in Hackney, east London, struck on Monday. The action is over split-shift payments and other issues. The Unite union members were promised a deal, but the council reneged on it

PICTURE: GARETH JENKINS

## HEALTH WORKERS

# The battle continues to win NHS pay justice

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEVANS

HUNDREDS OF health workers in the north west of England began their fifth round of strikes for equal pay this week.

Unison union members at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and St Helen's and Knowsley Hospital began a 48-hour walkout on Monday.

The cleaners, porters, and other support staff are demanding subcontractor Compass gives them the same rate of pay as workers employed directly by the NHS.

Workers on the Compass contract only receive the minimum wage rate of £8.21 an hour. They work alongside NHS staff doing similar jobs on £9.03 an hour—meaning full-time staff lose around £1,500 a year.

Compass doesn't pay shift bonuses for weekends and bank holidays and doesn't provide a sick pay scheme.

Lisa Oxbury, Unison's north west regional organiser, said, "There is growing concern that



Picketing in Blackpool on Monday

PICTURE: JOHN SHARP ON TWITTER

NHS privatisation is having a negative impact on patient safety, cleanliness, food quality, efficiency and the fair treatment of health service staff.

"In St Helens and Blackpool, the staff know only too well the impact of NHS outsourcing.

"Multibillion pound Compass has no interest in patients or staff, its focus is simply striving to deliver a profit."

She added, "It's time for the two NHS trusts in St Helens and Blackpool to say enough is

enough. It's down to them to get Compass under control or bring services back in-house."

Strikes by outsourced workers at nearby the Liverpool Women's Hospital and Royal Bolton Infirmary have won NHS rates of pay in the last year.

Trade unionists should raise solidarity in their workplaces to make sure Compass workers can keep up their fight.

●Tweet your solidarity to @NorthWestUNISON

## OUTSOURCING

## St Mary's workers step up the fight against Sodexo

MEMBERS OF the United Voices of the World union (UVW) at St Mary's Hospital in west London began a four-day strike on Monday. This will be their seventh to tenth days on strike.

The 200 cleaners, caterers and porters are outsourced by Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust to multinational Sodexo.

They want the same pay and conditions as those directly employed by the NHS.

They also want to be

brought in house. Unless bosses give in, the workers are set to begin an indefinite strike in January.

Petros Elia, a UVW organiser, said, "We cannot allow for there to be a two-tiered, racially divided workforce within the NHS, and we won't stop striking until that is put to an end."

A further five days of strikes are planned from 9 December.

●Support the strike fund. Go to [uvwunion.org.uk/strikefund](http://uvwunion.org.uk/strikefund)

## BRADFORD

HEALTH WORKERS in West Yorkshire are celebrating after bosses dropped their privatisation plans last week.

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust wanted to transfer hundreds of cleaners, porters and other support staff to a wholly-owned subsidiary.

A week-long strike—and the threat of all-out action—by Unison union members forced bosses to shelve the plans.

Trust chief executive, Mel Pickup, has now confirmed that "the Board has decided not to continue with plans to create a new company".

Bosses have now said they will look for "productivity gains". This must be resisted.

## EDUCATION

## Unions unite in Brighton

WORKERS AT Moulsecoomb Primary School in Brighton struck on Thursday of last week against plans to turn the school into an academy.

The walkout saw NEU and GMB union members hold big picket lines outside the school. The unions delivered unanimous votes for strikes on full turnouts, as did workers in the Unison union.

Unison members are set to strike at a later date.

The school is set to be taken over by the New Horizons trust after the Ofsted schools inspectorate rated it "inadequate".

Workers and parents oppose the plan and have formed a Hands Off Moulsecoomb campaign.

Councillors from all parties in Brighton and Hove have also voted to oppose

the academy plan. The trust was previously forced to hand back another school it had taken over in Worthing after over half the workers there resigned.

●Send messages of support to [paul.shellard@neu.org.uk](mailto:paul.shellard@neu.org.uk)

■NEU UNION members at Roe Green Infants & Strathcona school in Brent, west London, were set to hold their seventh strike over compulsory redundancies on Wednesday.

■NEU union members at St Catherine's Catholic School for Girls were set to strike on Thursday of this week. Workers at the south east London school are challenging what they call bullying from the head teacher.

## CIVIL SERVICE

## Bootle cleaners want £10

OUTSOURCED cleaners at HMRC tax offices in Liverpool and Bootle began a three-day strike on Monday of this week.

The members of the PCS union are demanding bosses at private contractor ISS pay them a wage of £10 an hour. They also want equivalent working conditions to workers employed directly by HMRC.

ISS bosses have refused to listen to workers' demands, after strikes in July, August and September.

But strikers say they're determined to keep going.

Striking cleaner Maria told Socialist Worker, "Everyone's getting a bit pissed off with ISS now—but we still want to keep striking."

They plan another strike from Monday to Tuesday next week.

■WORKERS AT an HMRC tax office in Ealing, west London, are set to strike in December against the closure of their workplace.

They voted by 95 percent to strike in a ballot that ended last week—the second successful strike vote in their long-running campaign.

## MANUFACTURING



Westex pickets are determined to win

PICTURE: UNITE NEYH ON FACEBOOK

## Pile on pressure at Westex

WORKERS AT Westex Carpets in Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, are on all-out indefinite strike over pay.

The Unite union members have rejected a 2.2 percent offer.

The firm then withdrew the offer, pleading poverty and saying it was implementing a pay freeze.

The workers do not believe the poverty argument.

They know that Westex has been making profits of over £5 million a year.

There have been lively picket lines with about six to eight people during the day

and bigger pickets on the nightshift.

There has been some success in turning people back.

Over 15 workers have joined the union so they can take part in the strike.

Westex was taken over by Victoria PLC a few years ago. Victoria PLC is run by Geoff Wilding, who in 2018 was reported to have a fortune of £285 million.

This is another reason why the workers do not take the protestations of poverty seriously.

**Martin Jones**



## UNIVERSITIES

# University bosses fail to stop student solidarity

by SADIE ROBINSON

**AHEAD OF** the university strikes, a number of institutions wrote to students trying to dissuade them from showing solidarity with the UCU.

Some went further. Sheffield Hallam University apparently created a "record of activities not taking place" form for students to report absent teachers.

Student Lauren denounced this as "a surveillance tool, pure and simple".

## Professor

She wrote to one professor, "Ever since the strike was called I along with every other student I have spoken to have been disgusted by the response from Sheffield Hallam."

"We are furious at being used in this way."

A letter from Liverpool university told students, "It is unlawful for students to join pickets."

It added, "Any international students who choose not to cross picket lines risk jeopardising their visa."

The disgraceful threats show how worried university bosses are about the potential for unity between university workers and students.



**CAMBRIDGE** students bring solidarity on their bikes (left) and Sudanese student Omer on the picket line at UCL in London (above)

PICTURES: OISIN CHALLENGE FLYNN AND SOCIALIST WORKER

They were right to be worried.

Big numbers of students have joined picket lines and encouraged other students not to cross.

Omer at UCL was one of them. "I am from Sudan," he told Socialist Worker.

"We have many strikes there and I always support strikes about wages. My professor is on strike

so who am I to argue?" Student Fabio also refused to cross.

## Specifics

"I don't know much about the specifics of this dispute," he said.

"But I think supporting whatever is coming from the ground, from us, is very important."

NUS representatives spoke

at several rallies at the start of the week, while students are part of teach-outs and rallies. At Manchester, students organised the teach-outs on the first two days of the strike.

In Cambridge, students organised a "solidarity bike ride" with the strike. They cycled to the picket line and gave biscuits to strikers.

Students in Oxford baked

cakes to sell and had raised around £300 for the strikes by Tuesday. Strikers also won solidarity from other trade unionists.

Royal Mail workers refused to cross picket lines to deliver mail at many institutions.

And the FBU firefighters' union brought a truck to deliver a solidarity speech to a strike rally in Sussex.

## RAILWAYS



A South West Railway striker

## South West strikes to derail attack on safety

**RAIL WORKERS** are gearing up for what could be one of the biggest battles against the train bosses and their Tory backers.

RMT union members on South Western Railway (SWR) are set to begin 27 days of strikes on Monday of next week.

The programme of strikes will see them walk out almost every day in December. It could paralyse many trains in the south west of England and major routes into London.

This is the latest phase in the long-running battle over driver only operation (DOO) trains and the role of guards.

Bosses want to implement DOO as a cost-cutting measure.

## Removes

This removes a second safety-critical worker from trains, rendering them unsafe and inaccessible for some passengers.

Negotiations last week produced no result.

RMT general secretary, Mick Cash, said, "Throughout these talks SWR has not shown any intention of moving the issues at the heart of the dispute forwards, despite verbal assurances in earlier discussions."

"It has become increasingly clear that they are not interested in reaching a settlement at this time."

**RAIL WORKERS** on West Midlands Trains staged a second round of strikes over DOO last Saturday.

The RMT members are set to strike every Saturday until the end of the year.

The West Midlands Trains franchise agreement allows the Tories to reimburse private operator Abellio for lost revenue during strikes.

Mick Cash said, "It's the same old Tories siding with fat cat train bosses at the expense of passengers and against rail workers."

## LONDON

## Effective picket lines at UCL in London

**UNIVERSITY** College London (UCL) began the strikes with a real effort to picket.

Many students were persuaded not to cross picket lines.

And many new strikers, such as Helen, joined the picket lines. "I'm striking because of the increased casualisation in universities," she told Socialist Worker.

Nicola added, "I'm getting towards middle age. I'm starting to think about my pension and how I will afford to live in London."

Strikers are also angry about wider attacks on education, such as tuition fees.

Paul Gilroy said, "I'm of a generation that was paid to go to university."

"I feel ashamed of what



Colin at UCL PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

universities are turning into. I don't want to be complicit."

After the union suspended last year's USS strikes, UCL UCU president Sean said the fact strikes are back on is a sign of strength.

"We've done what pretty much everyone felt was impossible," he said.

"We've got everything

back on the road—and we've broadened it out beyond pensions."

Branch secretary Tony said there was a "raw determination" to see the dispute through among strikers.

"Reballoting branches that missed the turnout threshold has to be the number one priority," he said.

Several branches voted overwhelmingly for strikes but missed the 50 percent turnout threshold for legal strikes by just a few votes.

But the union has put back reballots until the new year.

Striker Colin told Socialist Worker, "It would be ideal to be reballoting now."

"Then if we have to take more action after Christmas, it will add to the numbers."

## PENSIONS

## It's USS versus the bosses

**UCU UNION** members staged 14 days of strikes at over 60 universities in February and March last year to defend the USS pension scheme.

Union leaders suspended the action after bosses withdrew plans to change the scheme from a defined benefit one to a defined contribution one, and promised negotiations.

The move sparked anger from activists who argued that bosses still wanted to attack the scheme, and that suspending strikes took the pressure off them.

A Joint Expert Panel (JEP) was set up involving the UCU, bosses and USS to look at the scheme's future.

Its initial report recommended that workers do not pay more or get less in retirement.

Bosses and USS are ignoring this—and imposing

contribution rises. Workers are furious.

UCL UCU rep Matthew told Socialist Worker, "It's really frustrating that they rode back on compromises that were already mealy-mouthed to begin with. There's a real sense that we are undervalued."

Striker Ciaran agreed. "A lot of effort went into the JEP and for one side to just disregard the findings shows contempt. It's exactly the same kind of tone deaf response that we saw during the last strike."

The bosses can't be trusted. Bosses' group Ucea held talks with the UCU on Tuesday morning in central London. Ucea said the talks were taking place without preconditions.

Yet they had ruled out discussing pay.

UCL strikers protested outside the talks.



# STRIKE REVOLT IN UNIVERSITIES

by SADIE ROBINSON

**AN EIGHT-DAY strike across 60 universities got off to a fantastic start on Monday.**

UCU union members, and students, staged big picket lines across Britain.

Many reported bigger turnouts than ever before. Lesley, UCU campaigns officer at Leeds university, said picketing had been “fantastic”.

“We signed up 180 people for picketing, which is the most we’ve ever had,” she told Socialist Worker.

“We always get others who turn up without signing up.”

## Picket

Umit was picketing at Manchester university. “The picket lines have been absolutely brilliant,” he said.

“Hundreds of pickets were everywhere. Everybody says it was bigger than last time.”

At Newcastle university, at least 175 people picketed on the first day.

“The first day has been bigger than the first day of our strike last year,” said Bruce, a UCU rep there.

UCU union members are



STUDENTS AND workers unite on the picket line at Strathclyde university in Glasgow

PICTURE: RAYMIE KIERNAN

engaged in two disputes—one over pensions and another over pay, workloads, insecure contracts and pay inequality.

Workers at over 60 universities struck for 14 days last year to defend their USS

pension scheme. That action brought new members into activity—and this strike is doing the same.

The UCU said on Monday that 3,500 people had joined the union in the three weeks since the eight-day strike was

announced.

Sheffield university reported its highest ever membership on Monday.

Carlo, a Dundee university lecturer, said, “A number of new members have come out to picket.

“People are very upbeat and we’ve had more support from outside than previously, including from Labour.”

Shadow education secretary Angela Rayner spoke at a strike rally in Manchester on Monday, while Jeremy

Corbyn tweeted his support.

Several strikers felt that it was good to be taking action in an election period.

University College London (UCL) striker Ciaran told Socialist Worker, “When there’s an election people tend to be a bit more switched on to what’s happening.

“It was nice to hear we have been in the headlines—our strike can get more attention.”

## Furious

Workers are furious that bosses have gone back on a pledge to negotiate meaningfully over the future of their USS pension scheme (see page 19).

And years of real-terms pay cuts, casual contracts and a gender pay gap have fuelled the push to fight back.

Mary Jane, a striker at University College London, told Socialist Worker, “I was on fixed term contracts for years.

“When I got a permanent one I felt like I’d won the lottery. It shouldn’t be like that.

“This is for the future of education.”

For a full list of universities on strike go [bit.ly/UCUStrikeList](https://bit.ly/UCUStrikeList)

## Hundreds join rallies at campuses on the first day of universities’ strike

HUGE RALLIES and protests marked the beginning of the action.

Around 300 people marched through the centre of Bristol while up to 400 joined a strike rally in Manchester.

Other big rallies took place in Leeds, Edinburgh and Oxford among other places.

Some 100 strikers and students marched around the Strathclyde campus chanting,

“Bosses we won’t work for less—you can kiss our USS!”

A local cafe gave out free hot rolls and drinks to strikers. Behind the big



Rain couldn’t dampen strikers’ spirits in Bradford

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

rallies are reinvigorated branches with different people taking a lead.

Mike is one of the UCU contacts for the Edinburgh university branch. “It’s definitely different this time,” he told Socialist Worker.

“Last year people were learning on the hoof.

“This time people were having video-conferences weeks in advance of the strikes.

“This time the union office was absolutely full of people collecting materials, whereas last time it was the branch officers.” Linda is branch chair of the UCU at

Roehampton university.

“There are lots of new people involved,” she said.

## Committee

“We used to have a committee that was a little bit staid, but now newer people are taking responsibilities.

“The branch is changing.”

At UCL a steady stream of strikers arrived for “duty” as they put it, collecting leaflets and going to cover different entrances.

Branch secretary Tony told Socialist Worker, “There’s a lot

of self-organising. Last time there was a lot of explaining about what to do and about picketing.

“But now people are just grabbing bunches of placards and going off.”

Workers are organising regular strike meetings, to bring union members together to discuss the action, hammer out any problems and talk about where next.

This kind of organisation is critical to involving more people, strengthening the strikes and giving more control to ordinary members.

>>For more on the UCU strikes turn to page 19